Suicide bombings kill 40, injure 100 in Casablanca

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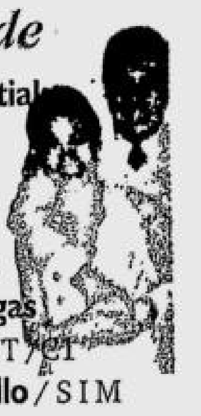
What's inside



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"We've decided to use extraordinary punitive force ... We must fight back now or face greater peril in the future."

EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA: Bomb terror sites

President orders attacks on 'embedded terrorists'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan *in Manila* **and the PDI Mindanao Bureau**

HOURS before leaving for a state visit to the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she has ordered the military to conduct "selective aerial and artillery attacks" against "embedded terrorist cells" in Mindanao.

She made the announcement in a taped message aired at around 1:30 p.m yesterday, where she said the terrorist cells had "attacked hapless civilian communities and murdered scores of innocent Filipinos," and cited the recent bombings and attacks in Davao City; Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte; Maigo, Lanao del Norte, and Koronadal, South Cotabato.

She cited even the Monday bomb attacks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia—suspected to be the handiwork of al-Qaida—where three Filipinos were among those killed and scores of others were injured.

"We've decided to use extraordinary punitive force not merely in view of tactical necessity, but to signify the determination of government to bring terrorists to justice," the President said. "We must fight back now or face greater peril in the future."

Ms Macapagal did not name any group to be targeted.

But in Davao City, Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the order was a veiled threat against the secessionist group.

"She did not mention the MILF but her government has considered us as a terrorist organization. She blamed us for the Davao and Koronadal bombings, which she said were part of a terror plot in Mindanao," Kabalu said.

He said military assaults on the MILF have been continuing since Feb. 11 but these were being done in the guise of the anti-terrorist campaign.

The President issued the order eight days after Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza resigned as chief of the government panel engaged in peace talks with the MILF, allegedly because of its heightened attacks against civilians. The peace talks have since been scrapped.

Ms Macapagal earlier gave the MILF up to June 1 to stop its attacks and renounce terrorism. Otherwise, she said, the government would declare it a terrorist group.

Military operations against the MILF have been going on in the past week in the Zamboanga peninsula, the Lanao provinces and Maguindanao.

The President, who stood behind a podium while delivering her speech, said a "strategic war" would be fought on the political, diplomatic, military, cultural, eco-

GMA/ A19

Last 2 Jehovah Witnesses hostages escape

JOLO—After nine months in captivity, two female Jehovah's Witnesses have escaped from the Abu Sayyaf group.

Marines found Florida Montulo, 42, and Norie Bendijo, 36, yesterday morning in Patikul, where the military has been waging an offensive to crush the al-Qaida-linked guerrillas.

The two women were flown to Manila where they met with President Macapagal-Arroyo shortly before she left for her state visit to the United States last night.

Ms Macapagal, who was meeting with legislators, broke the news to them: "I'm very happy to let the Philippines know ... the last of the Jehovah's Witnesses hostages have been freed."

"This is progress in our war against terrorism but it is not yet finished. Let's not take anything for granted in our vigilance against terrorist reprisal."

The women said they slipped away from their guard on Friday night while he was asleep. They groped their way through the jungle until soldiers found them. They looked tired and sleepless, their hands and feet muddy, when brought to an Army brigade camp.

"I'm so happy; we're free now," said Bendijo, sounding weak and weary.

Col. Nelson Allaga, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade, said soldiers under the 4th Marine Battalion Landing Team proceeded to Barangay Kanagi, Patikul after receiving a tip about the presence

LAST/ A19

Love, not controversy, makes Gracia's book a hit

Buyers feel blessed reading testimony of God's miracle

By Blanche S. Rivera

PEOPLE are buying Gracia Burnham's book not for the controversy it has generated but for its message of love, faith and hope.

Copies of "In the Presence of My Enemies," Gracia's story of the yearlong ordeal she and her husband Martin suffered as captives of the Abu Sayyaf, became available at Powerbooks branches in Metro Manila last Tuesday, a week ahead of the scheduled release. And sales have been brisk.

"It's not just because of what was [reported] in the newspapers. It's a testimony of God's miracle," said a buyer who identified himself only as a Christian, like the Burnhams.

The man said he had been following the American missionaries' story in the newspapers since they were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in May 2001. He went to the main branch of the book store chain on Arnaiz Ave., Makati City, at 10:30 a.m. Thursday to buy a copy of the book.

Jane Mendoza, manager of Powerbooks Arnaiz who said she finished reading the book on the first day of its release, described it as "a love story" first and foremost.

She also said it was a story about faith, survival, humility, forgiveness and moving on after going through a difficult time.

"The best time to read it is when you're depressed, when you feel like you have too many problems, no cash..." she said. "You will suddenly feel you're so blessed."

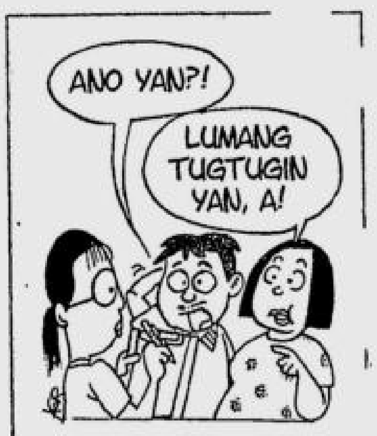
Christian couple Teng Lobo and her husband, who attend a Baptist church in Los Baños, had a copy of "In the Presence of My Enemies" on top of their pile of purchases at the same branch on Thursday.

"We want to know how [the Burnhams] survived spiritually in those difficult times," she said.

Mendoza said the main branch ran out of copies to display on the first day of release because of reservations made earlier.

She said all copies were "on hold" in the Pasay branch because the first shipment of 379 copies for all four branches was just about enough for those who had made reservations or prepaid purchases.

LOVE/ A18



ANO YAN?!
LUMANG TUGTUGIN YAN, A!

Cha-cha? What's that?

By Volt Contreras

AMENDMENTS to the Constitution? What's that?

At a time when the hottest issue among lawmakers is whether or not to amend the 1987 Constitution, "8 out of 10" Filipinos have little or no knowledge at all of the Constitution, according to a recent Pulse Asia survey.

CHA-CHA?/ A21

How to fiesta, Gordon-style

By Volt Contreras

HOW RICH are the sights and sounds of a small-town fiesta like the Carabao Festival of Pulilan, Bulacan.

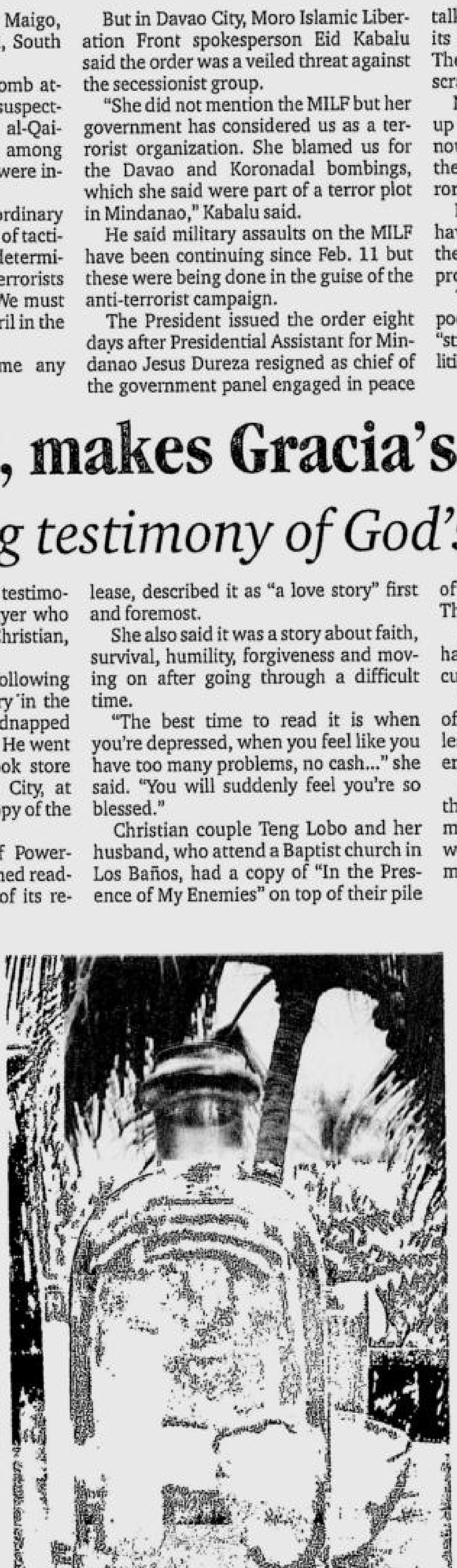
Down the long parade of adorned carabaos, the brass band plays "Sex Bomb" as it marches past the old church. A float bearing an image of the Sto. Nino is tailed by a doughnut store chain's mascot. A congresswoman from far-off Ilocos works the crowded streets, shaking hands with merrymakers.

The Filipino fiesta will draw sneers for its excesses, but it's apparently here to stay, mixing as it does the old and the new, piety and mischief, patron saints and, well, politicians.

And if Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is to have his way, it can be further enriched as an economic activity.

The Department of Tourism launched this month a program calling on fiesta organizers and local governments to turn their annual tradition into more than

HOW/ A21



THROUGH a glass clearly, there's the vision of coconut oil as a potent medicine and healing food. L.A. VILLARIBA

Virgin coconut oil being tested on SARS patients

By Cesar C. Villariba
Contributor

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit stirred the national adrenalin at the Senate hearing on SARS recently when he unveiled virgin coconut oil as a potential cure for viral epidemics such as the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

While the senators cackled over the appellation "virgin," Dayrit was careful to mark the word "potential."

Dayrit is well aware of the potential of virgin coconut oil. His own father, Dr. Conrado Dayrit M.D., has been successful in using virgin coconut oil since 1980 to combat the AIDS virus among AIDS patients in the San Lazaro Hospital.

A DROP of virgin coconut oil (left) can possibly kill superviruses like the coronavirus (right).

The elder Dayrit is currently conducting test applications of virgin coconut oil to SARS patients in cooperation with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine at Alabang.

Medical director of the Potenciano Medical Center (formerly Polymedic), emeritus professor of pharmacology, University of the Philippines and past president of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Dayrit on a shoestring budget had been quietly at work on 14 HIV patients ages 22 to 48.

The elder Dayrit's work has been documented in the research book The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil, written by Bruce Fife, American doctor of naturopathy, and cited by the Michigan State University's Department of Chemistry and Pharmacology.

Unfortunately, local research into coconut oil as medicine failed to take off on a larger scale since pharmaceu-

VIRGIN/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/02

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Widespread rains
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Widespread rains

Hard-hitting Lucena media man slain

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A hard-hitting broadcaster of radio dwTI here was gunned down yesterday morning by two unidentified men while he was on his way to work at the station.

Police said Apolinario "Polly" Pobeda, 35, of Capitol Homesite Subdivision, Barangay Cotta, was on his Yamaha motorcycle when he was flagged down by the suspects some 15 meters from the railroad crossing on Quezon Avenue around 6 a.m.

The suspects, who were on a black motorcycle, pumped bullets into the victim's head and body. One suspect, police said, even got off the motorcycle and shot Pobeda at close range.

Pobeda's common-law wife, Rowena Morales, said the victim had been receiving death threats for some time now.

"I warned him to . . . lie low for a while but he just ignored my pleas. (He said) there was nothing personal in what he had been doing (and that it) was just part of his job," she said.

Morales was furious at bystanders at the crime scene because they did not attend to Pobeda. She said it was only when she arrived at the scene that Pobeda was brought to the hospital.

Pobeda was declared dead on arrival at the Quezon Memorial Hospital.

Mamer Aguda, one of Pobeda's neighbors, said an unidentified man told Pobeda last month about a supposed liquidation plot against the broadcaster.

Joselito Ojeda, president of ConAmor Broadcasting System which runs dwTI, said there was no likely suspect for the killing but Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr.

Pobeda, in his radio program "Nosi Balasi" which was co-anchored by James Magbuhos, regularly dished out scathing blind items that obviously pertained to Talaga. He had been accusing Talaga of alleged corruption and involvement in the illegal drug trade.

Talaga, however, denied having anything to do with the murder.

"For the past two years, my family had been Polly's target of so many defamatory tirades and blind items. But we maintained our cool because we understood the dynamics of the local media. Polly served as a very willing pawn of my political detractors," Talaga said.

City Councilor Godofredo Faller, a member of the political opposition, likewise blamed Talaga for the murder.

"The top city official has long been irritated and angry with Pobeda over his daily tirades and exposés of corruption and anomalies in the present administration," Faller said.

Pobeda had also taken occasional potshots at the New People's Army over its failure to get the Marcoses despite its much-publicized warning several years ago that members of the family would be abducted by NPA rebels and be made answerable to alleged crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement.

But Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, said the NPA had nothing to gain from Pobeda's death.

"His tirades against the revolutionary movement had nothing to do with us. I don't even know the guy," he told the INQUIRER in a cellular phone interview.

Pobeda's killing came even as the main suspect in the murder of Pagadian City journalist Edgar Damalerio had yet to be arrested.

Damalerio's wife chided police authorities over their alleged inaction in implementing the warrant of arrest against PO1 Guillermo Wapile.

Gemma Damalerio, in a statement dated May 13, said Wapile has been spotted in Pagadian City "on an almost weekly basis," yet has not been arrested.

Gemma also took potshots at Pagadian City Mayor Henrieto Dogon and Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles for their deafening silence over her husband's case.

Damalerio was a staunch critic of the two officials. *With a report from Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Rib-ticklers, adulterers were daily fare on his show

LUCENA CITY—For regular morning radio listeners here, the opening song of "Nosi Balasi"—a rock and roll hit of singer Sampaguita—signaled the start of Apolinario "Polly" Pobeda's popular program on radio station dwTI.

The program started five years ago and became the subject of a short article in the INQUIRER due to its unusual format of exposing adulterers and philanderers.

Pobeda had always offered his listeners rib-tickling tales about the latest sex scandal involving local government officials and police and military officers. He would give clues on the identities of the subjects of his exposés and would name the place where illicit partners rendezvoused.

But, he had told the INQUIRER, he always double-checked his information.

Lately, Pobeda had been including tirades against media practitioners whom he did not like and corrupt government officials.

According to Joselito Ojeda, president of ConAmor Broadcasting System, Pobeda had 15 libel cases against him.

Pobeda was not an accredited member of the local chapter of the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster sa Pilipinas.

Noreen Villalba, president of the Quezon Tri-Media Group where Pobeda was a member of the board, described the slain broadcaster as "a very simple and quiet person."

And for Aling Rosing, Pobeda's sick mother, he was the epitome of a loving son.

"I told him I wanted to go back home to our village in Padre Burgos but he dissuaded me. He asked me to attend the city fiesta and told me that he would treat me to dishes of fresh fish. He always brought me fresh fish," she said.

Pio Pobeda, eldest brother of the victim, recalled how Pobeda entertained people in their hometown through his singing. He said Pobeda often joined amateur singing contests in their town and almost always won.

"He had a voice like Bing Rodrigo's," Pio said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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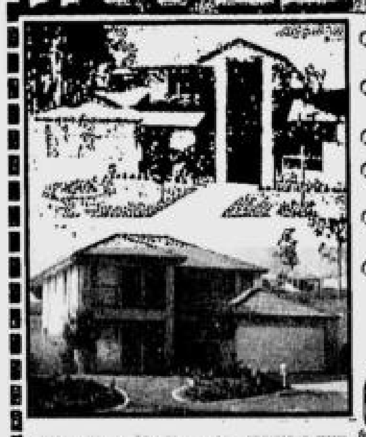

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'Cable guy' panics consulate

LOS ANGELES (Via PLDT)—An Arab-looking man who insisted on installing a satellite dish at the Philippine consulate here and three other cities on President Macapagal-Arroyo's US itinerary caused panic at the mission offices here.

Maj. Romy Basco, Presidential Security Group commander for the LA leg of the President's visit, said they interrogated the man, identified as Ibrahim Kala, and he "could not explain his intentions."

Mary Anne Cuevas, tourism director, said she found the man's request "very, very strange."

"Your President is coming, right?," Cuevas quoted Kala as saying.

Cuevas said the man claimed he was with TV Australia and had received his instructions from NBN (National Broadcasting Network) in Manila. She said he later claimed he was with The Filipino Channel, a subsidiary of ABS-CBN in Manila.

She said that when she asked for Kala's ID, he refused, prompting her to call building security.

From the tourism office, the man went to the main consulate building insisting he had a job to do.

For several hours, the consulate was in a panic over the mysterious Kala.

It turned out the man was legitimate. Sometime last March, NBN signed a memorandum of agreement with TV Australia to provide world satellite broadcast for NBN in areas in the US where there are large concentrations of Filipinos.

A call to Joey Isabelo, NBN general manager, clarified the whole thing. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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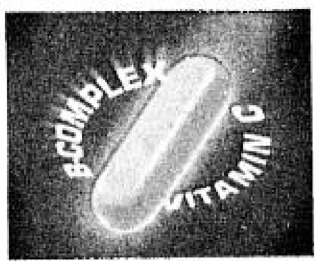

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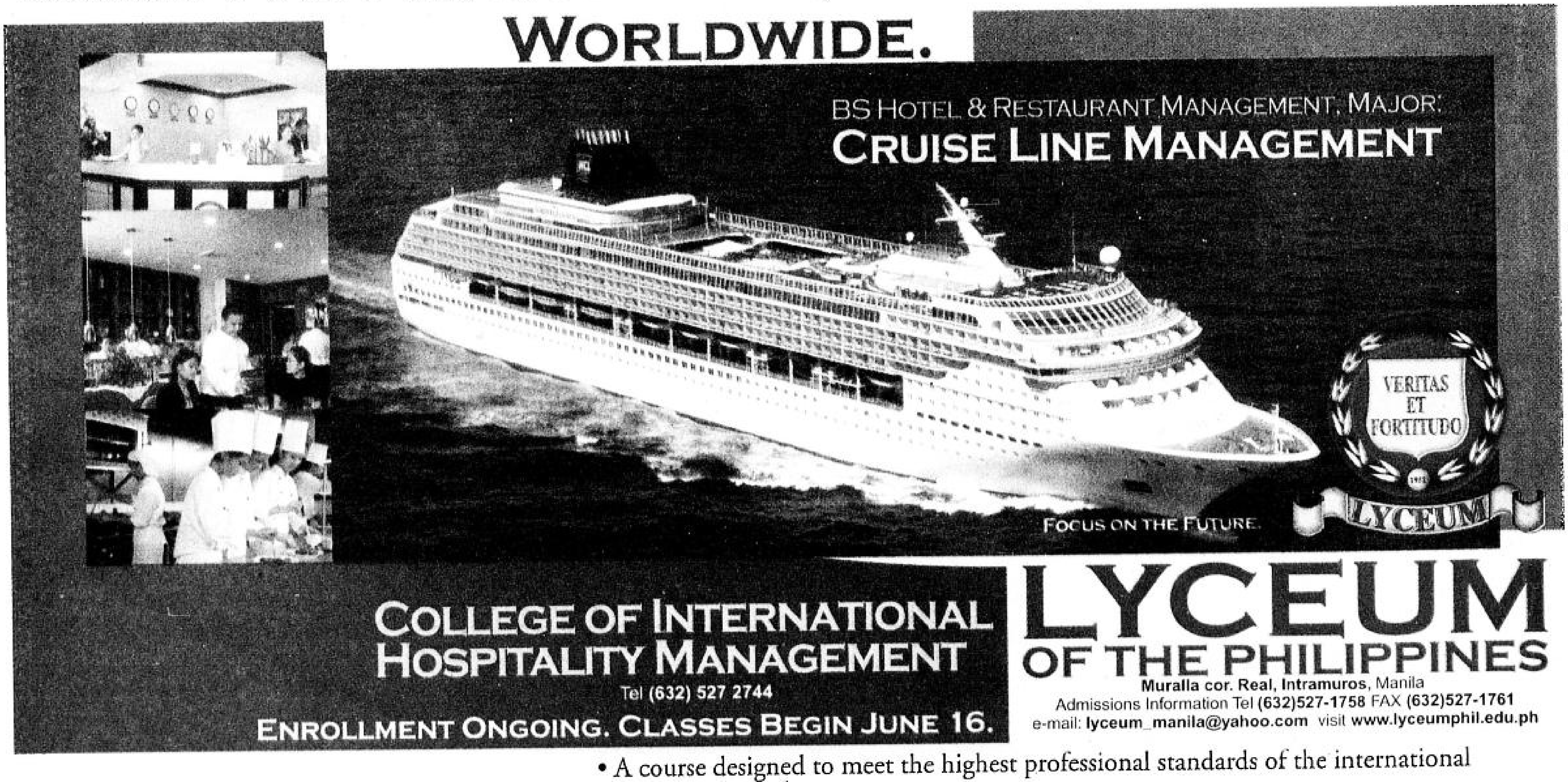

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Meralco refund question to SC

CONSUMER groups are planning to ask the courts to clarify matters regarding the at least P6 billion in interest on the Manila Electric Co.'s excess charges totaling P30 billion since 1994.

In separate interviews, the militant Bagong Alayansang Makabayan and the Freedom from Debt Coalition said they were planning to file motions for the Supreme Court to clarify its order on the refund.

Meralco officials had said the SC order covered only the 16.7-centavo per kilowatt-hour excess charge and was silent on the interest.

The two groups said the interest on the excess charges amounted to between P6.2 billion and P6.8 billion.

On the other hand, the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) said the interest meant an additional P18 billion to the P30.5-billion principal amount.

The consumer groups had pegged the interest on the refund amount to that of Meralco's yield on customers' deposits.

Nasecore president Pete Ilagan said: "The Energy Regulatory Board [the Energy Regulatory Commission's predecessor] had ordered Meralco to provide a 6-percent yield on customers' deposit up to 1996. But this was raised to 10 percent from 1997 onward." *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Lawmaker protests Pinoy kids' exclusion from Special Olympics

By Marc Reyes and Tessa Salazar

THE CHAIR of the House committee on youth and sports yesterday vowed to initiate a congressional move to protest Ireland's decision to disallow 21 mentally challenged Filipino children from competing in the Special Olympics slated in the country next month.

Rep. Monico Puentevella, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission, described the barring decision as "insulting and infuriating." He said he would file a protest resolution on Monday, when Congress resumes sessions.

Revised classification

Puentevella also said he called up the Department of Foreign Affairs to seek an explanation as to why the Philippines was included in the list of countries barred by Ireland due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome scare, when the World Health Organization had already revised its classification of the country.

Barred from the Olympics along with the Philippines because of the SARS scare are China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

"We have only four cases of SARS in the country and we are not even on the WHO hot list," Puentevella told the INQUIRER.

"I want to know why they discriminated against us," he said. "It's very saddening because these athletes, young as they are, are looking forward to competing in their version of the Olympics."

Wait till Tuesday

But the furor may all be for naught.

Yesterday, the Special Olympics Philippines decided in a meeting to wait until Tuesday, calling attention to the fact the WHO was expected to delist the Philippines from SARS-affected countries on May 20.

Special Olympics Philippines national executive director Alexander Babst said the Special Olympics International games organizing committee in Ireland assured him the exclusion of the Philippines will be lifted once it got clearance from the WHO.

Anticipating the WHO to issue a statement on Tuesday declaring the Philippines SARS-free, Special Olympics Philippines president Carmel Almendrala said, "The training of the athletes continues."

Indignant parents

Nevertheless, the Special Olympics Philippines 14-member board decided yesterday to send a letter to the Special Olympics International protesting the Philippines' inclusion among the countries that have been banned from joining the world games.

"Parents were very indignant about the failure of Special Olympics International to inform us early on about the barring of Filipinos. And why do we read in the papers that the Philippines is classified only as a medium-risk country, which means our SARS cases are negligible and contained? We will put all these things into writing," said Almendarala.

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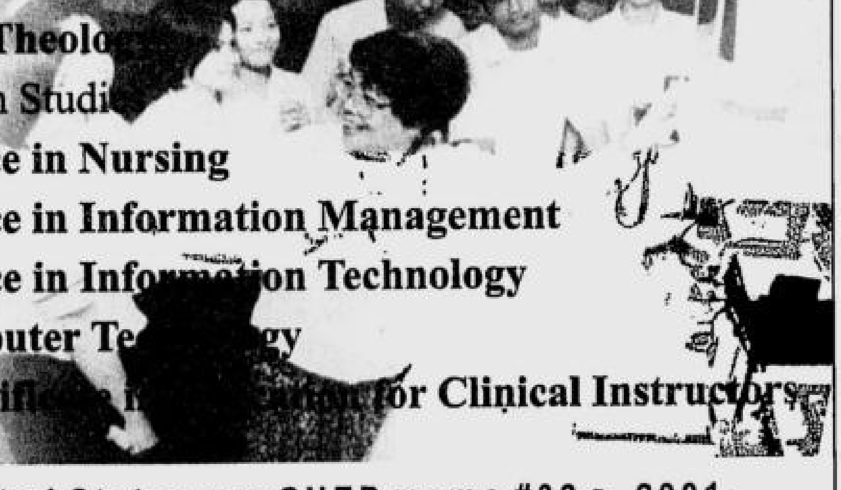

Group blasts Dutch treatment of Joma

LUCENA CITY—A local group ostensibly seeking to defend the rights of Jose Maria (Joma) Sison yesterday assailed the Dutch government for being "cruel" in rejecting an appeal to unfreeze the bank accounts of the self-exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"The Committee Defend condemns the cruelty of the Dutch government in depriving Professor Sison of basic necessities.

"By preventing him from working and by terminating the social benefits due to him as a recognized political refugee, the Dutch government is violating his basic human right to life and practically wants him to starve to death," Ruth de Leon, Committee Defend chair, said in a statement to the INQUIRER.

On May 15, a European Union judge refused to unfreeze the assets of Sison, who claimed he was wrongly included on a European Union terrorist list.

The judge in the European Court of First Instance in Luxembourg, the second highest court in the EU, ruled that Sison did not urgently need his assets to be unfrozen. The decision was made public on Friday.

De Leon said Sison's Dutch lawyers, Hans Langenberg and Dundar Gurses, had filed a case for provisional measures before the District Court of Utrecht to challenge the decision "to deprive Sison of his social benefits" and demand their immediate restoration.

She said the case would proceed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in case Sison "cannot get justice within the Netherlands."

De Leon said the decision of the Court of First Instance to dismiss the application of Sison for interim relief left intact the main issue concerning the legality of Sison's inclusion in the European Council's list of suspected terrorists.

She said the main issue was raised in Sison's application to the European Court of Justice filed on Feb. 6, 2003. "The date for handing down the decision has not yet been announced by the Court," she explained.

De Leon said the European Court of First Instance dismissed the application "but made a positive declaration that Sison should seek interim relief from the Dutch national authorities."

"It declared that it is within the jurisdiction and competence of the Dutch national authorities to restore the basic necessities of Sison," she said.

She said the court pointed out that the European Council Regulation of 2001 allowed competent authorities in each member state to grant specific authorizations to use the frozen funds for essential human needs of the person included in the list and his family, such as for food, medicine, rent, mortgage payments, and also to pay for taxes, compulsory insurance premiums and utility bills.

She maintained that as a member of the United Nations, the Netherlands was required by UN Security Council Resolution 1452 of Dec. 20, 2002 not to deprive anyone in the terrorist list of the basic necessities of life.

"As a member state of the European Community, the Netherlands is also required by European Council Regulation (EC) No. 561/2003 of 27 March 2003 not to deprive Sison of basic necessities. This EC Regulation explicitly stipulates that it is directly applicable to the member states," she said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Gov't admits talking to Fraport about Naia 3

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A GOVERNMENT panel has met with officials of Fraport AG, the German investor in the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3, to offer a settlement.

"They are encouraging Fraport to turn over ownership of the airport facility to the government in exchange for just compensation," Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable Jr. said Friday at a news briefing.

But Afable, who is acting as Malacañang spokesperson, said no figures had been mentioned.

"Once this concept is accepted, the negotiations can go into more details, as to the amount of money involved," he said.

The panel is made up of Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee and Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

Afable denied that the negotiations were being conducted in secret.

He also denied that the government had sent other emissaries to Fraport.

"No one in the government, especially in the Office of the President, has ever threatened that company [Fraport] to comply with certain conditions," Afable said in reaction to reports that the German firm was being asked to agree to a low compensation. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

Comelec: Counting machines bid stands

THE COMMISSION on Elections has ruled out the possibility of declaring a failure of bids in the awarding of a contract for counting machines, despite claims the bidding was flawed and the results questionable.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. insisted the procedure that led to the awarding of the P1.3-billion contract to supply 2,500 counting machines to Mega Pacific Corp., a Korean-led consortium, was above-board.

The National Movement for Free Elections supported the Comelec's assertion, but said the real test would come in July when 30 counting machines are delivered for use in training personnel.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said the Comelec should test the machines in front of interested parties, to "prove they work."

"When the machines fail in July, that's when we have to act. The alternative to automation, which is manual counting, is disastrous," Concepcion said in a phone interview.

Abalos dismissed the claims of technology experts that the counting machines would not be up to the task in next year's polls.

"If we cannot believe the findings of the Department of Science and Technology, who could we believe?" Abalos said in a phone interview yesterday. *Blanche S. Rivera*

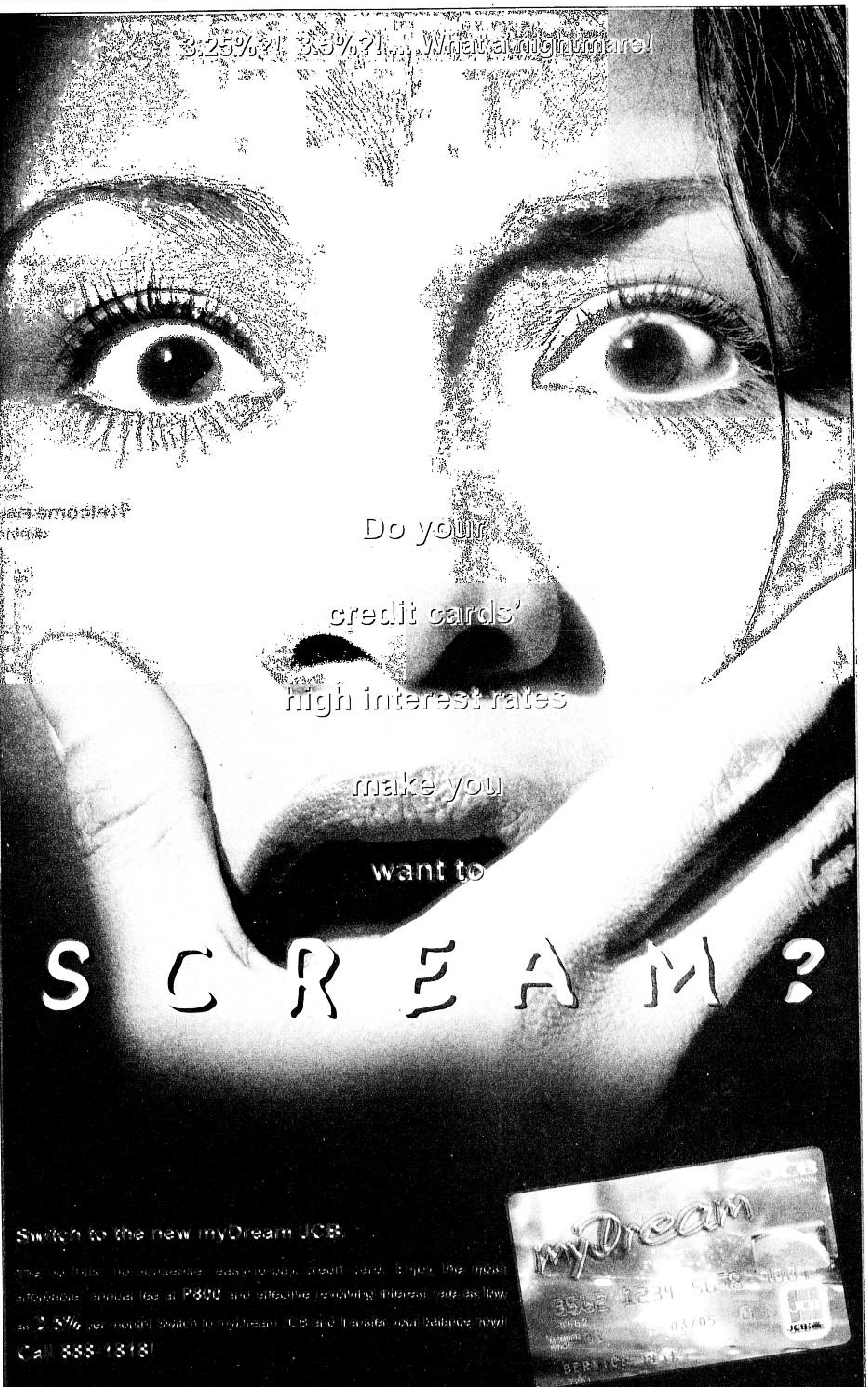
National media summit to tackle world crises

FINAL preparations are underway for the holding of the 2nd National Media Summit on May 21-23 at the Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Manila, under the auspices of the Federation of Provincial Press Clubs of the Philippines (FPPCP), in cooperation with the Publishers and Editors League of the Philippines (PELP).

With the theme, "Media's Role in Times of Crisis, Toward a Strong Republic," some 300 media practitioners are expected to gather to hear top government officials and media leaders dissect the crises besetting our country and the world today, like SARS, terrorism, crime and the economy.

This year's media gathering coincides with the FPPCP's general assembly and election of officers and the induction of interim officers of the PELP.

The FPPCP was organized in 1960 by the late Ermin Garcia Sr. It was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission by the late publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer during his presidency of the organization in 1967.



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US tightens visa controls

IN AN EFFORT to further thwart terrorism, the United States will require nearly all visa applicants to be interviewed in person by its diplomats, a move that will complicate an already laborious process, the Department of State said Friday.

The move, the exact details of which are still under debate, is intended to tighten the visa issuance process at US embassies and consulates around the world to prevent terrorists from entering the United States, it said.

"We continue to evaluate measures that will improve our ability to screen visa applicants," said Nancy Beck, a department spokesperson.

'Eligible applicant'

"Among those measures being considered is requiring most non-immigrant visa applicants to appear personally before a visa may be issued to an eligible applicant," she said.

The change has sparked concerns from many in the United States—from universities to the travel industry—and raised eyebrows at the state department which, officials said, does not currently have the manpower to implement the new policy effectively.

"I don't know how we're going to cope," one senior department official told Agence France Presse on condition of anonymity. "In theory, it's an excellent idea, but actually doing it in practice is another story.

"We just don't have the consular staff to handle it," the official said.

New policy

That official and others, confirming a story in The Wall Street Journal which first reported the planned change, said the impact of the new policy was not yet entirely clear as the specifics remained under discussion.

But they said that it could significantly lengthen the time it takes to process a visa.

"A lot of people are going to be very unhappy," said one official. "People who are already complaining about visa delays are going to be screaming."

The decision to require interviews of perhaps 90 percent of visa applicants is a direct response to harsh criticism of the department following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

All 19 of the Sept. 11 hijackers—15 of whom were Saudi citizens—had received valid visas to enter the country and at least 13 had not been interviewed by consular officials, according to officials. *AFP*

Cops find OFW with link to Saudi Arabia bombing

By TJ Burgonio

THE OVERSEAS Filipino worker who said he was asked to plant a bomb in a Saudi Arabia expatriate compound was found by police intelligence agents on Friday afternoon.

The man, who was identified by the Department of Foreign Affairs as "Juan," was interrogated at Camp Crame until midnight. He then asked for a break apparently due to exhaustion because of the intense questioning by intelligence operatives, a police source said.

The source, however, declined to reveal what the OFW disclosed, except to say that he had been working in Saudi Arabia since 1982.

The man told radio dzMM the other day that while working as a technician in Riyadh, he was approached last March by four Arab men who offered him a large sum of money to plant a bomb in one of three residential compounds populated by expatriates, mainly Americans.

Last week, suicide bombers attacked the three compounds, setting off explosions that killed 34 people, including three Filipinos.

By that time, "Juan" was back in the Philippines, having returned in April ahead of the expiration of his job contract because he feared further visits from the four Arabs.

The police source said the OFW's revelations would be verified with the authorities in Riyadh.

"Until then, we can't say if he's credible," said the source, who added that the OFW's debriefing would continue in the next few days.

So far, "Juan" has been very "cooperative" with the agents, he said.

The source said the OFW did not want his identity revealed because "he fears for his life."

The agents tracked the OFW down shortly after he went on the air over dzMM Friday afternoon.

Following the radio interview, Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, police director for intelligence, instructed his staff to find the man.

Director Ricardo de Leon, director for police community relations, said that after the OFW's debriefing, the Philippine police "will coordinate and share information" with its counterpart in Saudi Arabia. "It would be up to them to appreciate his testimony." *With Michael Ubac*

2 women in Nida Blanca slay continue to elude probers

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation may have tons of evidence to link Rod Lauren Strunk to the murder of his wife, actress Nida Blanca, but the agency admitted it still had no idea who two of Strunk's accomplices were in the gruesome crime.

NBI National Capital Region chief Edmund Arugay said yesterday the agency was "literally swimming" in paperwork and witnesses' testimonies with regard to Strunk's alleged participation in the crime.

"But even after [nearly] two years of investigation, our probers have not uncovered the identities of the two other persons who were reportedly with Strunk when Blanca was killed," Arugay told reporters.

The only suspect in the killing in police hands, Philip Medel Jr., had said in a sworn statement that a "tomboyish-looking woman" and an elderly lady were watching as he and Strunk killed Blanca in November 2001.

Medel claimed the "tomboyish-looking woman" also struck Blanca in the chest and ribs, disabling the actress. But Medel failed to identify the two women, saying he only met them on the night of the murder.

Medel later recanted his testimony, however, but other witnesses said they also saw the two women, although they failed to describe them to investigators.

Arugay said the delay in identifying the other suspects could be attributed to the NBI's pre-occupation with determining Strunk's motive and involvement in the crime.

The agency has charged Strunk, Medel, Vicente Polinar and two Jane Does with Blanca's murder.

Strunk is currently in a California jail, awaiting an extradition hearing, while Medel is at the NBI detention facility.

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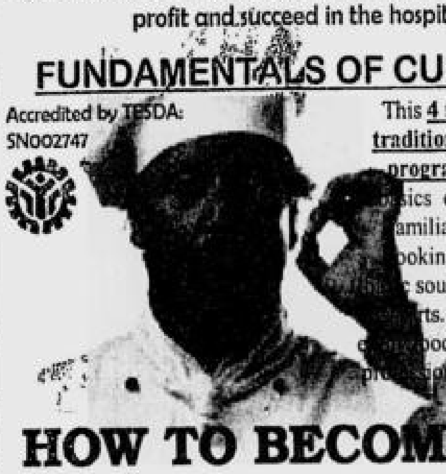

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Kids to lead world AIDS memorial in RP

CHILDREN will lead the country's participation in the 20th global candlelight memorial for people who have died of AIDS.

Paper boats made by some 50 children will carry lighted candles and be floated down the Marikina River later this afternoon.

The AIDS Society of the Philippines (ASP) said children will be "at the forefront" of this year's commemoration, the fourth to be held in the Philippines.

Dominic Garcia, ASP project manager, said children were picked for the campaign "because AIDS can hit anyone," contrary to the public perception that it hits only those who are sexually active and reckless.

An exhibit of photos taken by children and an origami workshop on boat-making will also highlight today's events at Marikina Riverbanks.
Blanche S. Rivera

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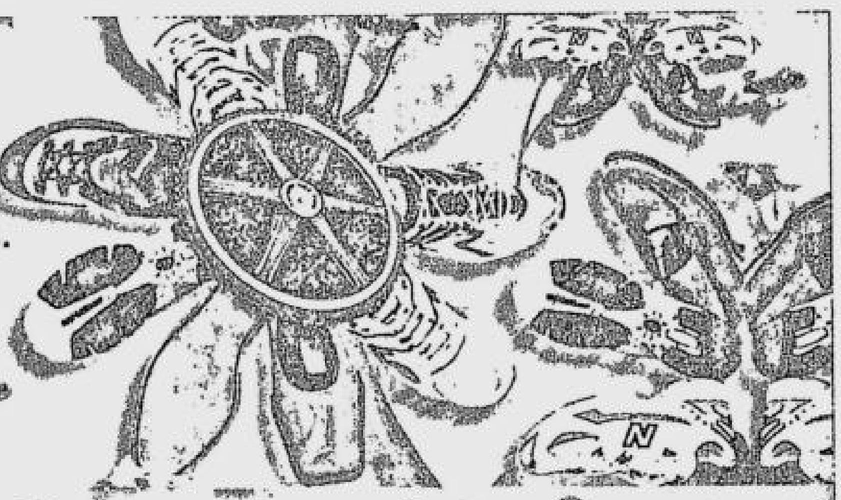

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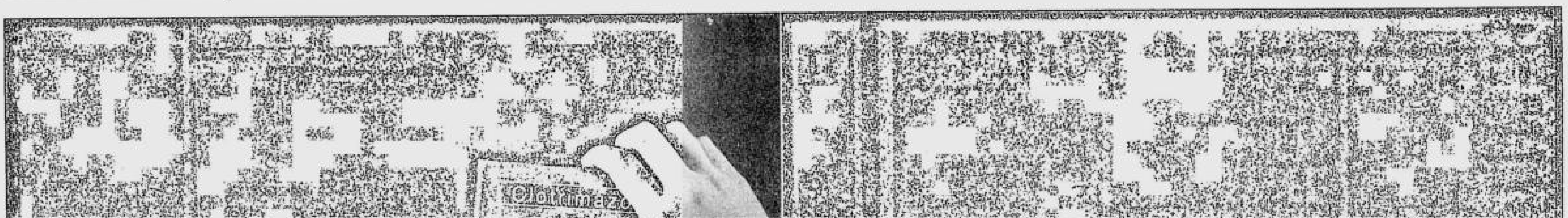

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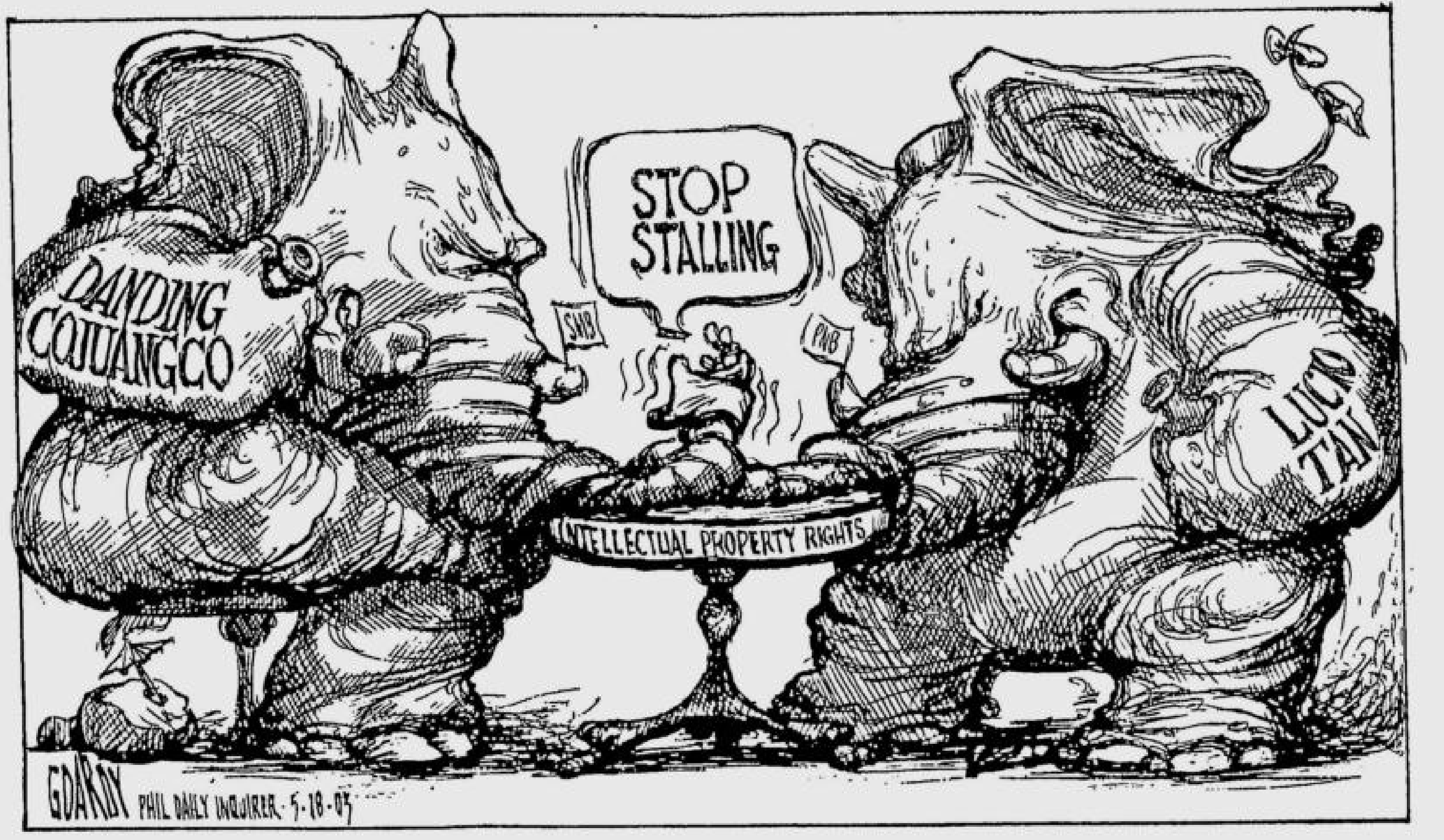
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EDITORIALS

A dinner

THE IMAGE engineers at the White House, the same masters of sound and light who created George W. Bush's aircraft-carrier moment, are at it again. They have turned the American president's questionable diplomatic record into a milestone of sorts. The sorry part is, Malacañang's own spinmeisters have bought into it.

Casting President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit in the best possible light, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer noted two weeks ago that it was only the third such visit under the second Bush administration. The "rare honor"—which includes a state dinner to be hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Bush—was, Fleischer said, "the President's way of saying Thank you to the government of the Philippines ... for being such a good and reliable ally to the United States."

The reason the honor has become rare, however, is ideological. This White House is driven by its evangelical faith in American superiority and military prowess; it does not have the patience for the ecumenical give and take of diplomacy. Under George H. W. Bush, the US government hosted a total of 21 state visits (the Philippines came third on the list, when President Corazon Aquino visited in 1989). On his third year alone, the elder Bush hosted 11 state visits. In contrast, the younger Bush has hosted one a year: Mexico in 2001, Poland in 2002, and now the Philippines in 2003.

We believe this explains the diplomatic misfortunes of the second Bush administration in large part. In 1990, the first Bush forged the largest military coalition since World War II. In 2003, the second Bush could only muster a handful of coalition partners.

Since the war in Iraq, the Americans' main coalition partners—the United Kingdom, Australia and Spain—have all come a-visiting. Instead of basking in the pomp and pageantry of the White House, however, Tony Blair, John Howard and Jose Maria Aznar got right down to brass tacks—in Bush's ranch in Texas. In all likelihood, the real business concerning the occupation of Iraq—the rehabilitation contracts, the reconstruction projects—was conducted right there, away from the warm, fuzzy, White House limelight.

Sadly, our own officials have accepted the Americans' version of events. In his grandiloquent manner, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople even improved on it. "The state visit ... begins a new chapter in our old and intriguing story between the Philippines and the United States," he told reporters en route to Los Angeles.

Judging by the official glee in Malacañang over the "rare honor" of a state visit, the President's third meeting with Bush may actually be said to do the opposite: It brings the RP-US relationship right back to the discredited chapters of old.

With the exception of Ramon Magsaysay, all presidents have repaired to the United States, to luxuriate in official White House approval. In the bad old days, a visit to the United States was a seal of political Good Housekeeping. Ferdinand Marcos was the most shameless, using his second state visit to the United States, in September 1982, to confirm Ronald Reagan's support for his dictatorship.

The second President Macapagal (the first made his state visit in October 1964) inaugurated her foreign policy in an auspicious manner: She chose Malaysia for her first trip abroad. All this propaganda coming out of the Palace, however, about what an enormous honor it is for the country to be invited to the United States, confirms that, under this administration, and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, what was once an Asean-oriented foreign policy has again become a US-centric one.

A wedding

IN CONTRAST to the distasteful hoopla over the state dinner George and Laura Bush will host this week, the wedding of Dato Arroyo, the President's second son, to his girlfriend of seven years, Kakai Manotok, at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park on Friday, was simple and elegant from start to finish.

It could easily have degenerated into a costly spectacle, like the wedding of Irene Marcos and Greggy Araneta, or a tasteless exercise in one-upmanship in gifts, like the wedding of Jackie Ejercito and Beaver Lopez. Instead, the nuptial Mass took only an hour, and the reception was marked by a strong sense of privacy and a clear lack of ostentation.

To everyone's profit, nobody tried to make political capital out of it.

Presidential reversals

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES has had 14 presidents so far, namely, Emilio Aguinaldo, Manuel L. Quezon, Jose P. Laurel, Sergio Osmeña, Manuel A. Roxas, Elpidio Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay, Carlos P. Garcia, Diosdado Macapagal, Ferdinand E. Marcos, Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Estrada, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Eight of them were lawyers, *viz.* Quezon, Laurel, Osmeña, Roxas, Quirino, Garcia, Macapagal and Marcos. Roxas, Macapagal and Marcos topped the bar examinations, Laurel placed second and had earlier served in the Supreme Court. Garcia placed seventh. Like him, Quirino was a senator before he became vice president and succeeded his deceased predecessor.

Aguinaldo led the Filipino forces against Spain and later the Americans. Magsaysay was a guerrilla leader before he became a congressman and later broke the back of the Huk movement as secretary of national defense. Aquino was catapulted to Malacañang, upon the assassination of her husband Ninoy. Ramos, one of the leaders of Edsa I, was her logical successor. Joseph Estrada, elevated by the *bakya* crowd and deposed while under impeachment, was replaced by now incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The presidents have at one time or another been reversed by the Supreme Court except Aguinaldo, Quezon, Laurel, Osmeña, Magsaysay, and so far, Macapagal-Arroyo. Aguinaldo's government hardly took off the ground before the United States subjugated our country. It was said during the Commonwealth period that (Solicitor General) "Ozaeta never won in the Supreme Court but Quezon never lost." Laurel served during the Japanese occupation when the 1935 Constitution was suspended, and Osmeña was president only briefly after the Liberation. Magsaysay died in a plane crash before any of his acts could be judicially challenged.

The Supreme Court did not uphold Roxas when he transferred a prosecutor from one station to another without the latter's consent. Quirino was twice rebuffed in the celebrated Emergency Powers Cases. Garcia's "midnight appointments" were generally outlawed, and Macapagal was chastised for illegal exercise of the veto power and disregard of a statutory requirement. Marcos committed many violations of even his own dictated Constitution, but it was only after his downfall that his acts were annulled. Aquino's designation of an acting chair of the Commission on Elections and her attempt to sell Philippine property in Japan were held unauthorized. Ramos' national ID system was shot down by the Supreme Court, which later rejected Estrada's attempt to regain his resigned office.

As one of the non-lawyer presidents, Macapagal-Arroyo needs all the legal advice she can get. Apparently, however, she is not getting much of it or she is simply ignoring it. Her summary dismissal of the PEA executives for alleged corruption in the construction of the multi-million peso boulevard named after her father does not seem to jibe with due process. This looks like the case where her father dismissed Dr. Paulino Garcia without complying with the same constitutional requirement. The PEA officials have stood pat and refused to resign as the President demanded.

President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately signed the controversial absentee voting bill into law despite its obvious constitutional defect. It allows Filipino immigrants to vote despite their lack of residence in the Philippines required by the Constitution. The least she could have done was allow a reasonable period for its study by her legal advisers instead of making a political show of approving it right away in the presence of its principal authors.

The law is now under challenge before the Supreme Court. It is claimed that the constitutional requirements for the right to vote must be actual; not prospective, to be possessed on the day of the election and not afterwards. The law provides that immigrants may vote in the 2004 elections as long as they promise under oath to permanently reside in the Philippines later. The petitioner asks, What if they don't comply with that condition, after they shall have voted illegally? The government says it is only implementing the constitutional mandate to adopt a "system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad." But it dismisses the word "qualified" because the beneficiaries of the law are not qualified.

We hope the Supreme Court will give preferential attention to this case because of the serious constitutional issue raised and the urgency of its resolution. Presuming the validity of the law, the Commission on Elections has no choice but to prepare for its implementation, and spend whatever funds are available for the purpose, even if the law may eventually be declared unconstitutional. If that happens, so much time, effort and money will have been needlessly wasted.

Speaking for myself, I don't see how *future* and *uncertain* re-acquisition of one's forfeited residence can restore to a Filipino immigrant the constitutional right to vote in Philippine elections. Congress might as well also authorize 15-year-olds to vote in 2004 on the ground that they will by the mere passage of time become 18 years old in 2007. Come to think of it, if the immigrant dies before reacquiring his Philippine residence, he will be among the dead who usually rise from the grave on Election Day.

Couldn't President Macapagal-Arroyo see the flaws of that lawless law? There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Hold on

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a man who was driving up to Baguio for the first time. It was raining and foggy as he started his ascent. Luckily there was a vehicle in front of him which he decided to follow. The tail lights of the car was his guide through the thick fog. He was elated with his strategy. Then, suddenly, the car ahead stopped. When it did not move for some time, he blew his horn. The other driver alighted from his car, and asked him what was wrong. "*Abante na tayo*," the first driver said. The other driver retorted: "What do you mean keep going? I'm already in my garage!"

* * *

The Gospel today (Jn. 15,1-8) is about remaining in Jesus, who is the vine. Apart and away from Him, we can do nothing. Like the wise driver in our story who followed the other car with so much tenacity, we too should hold on to the Lord through thick and thin. Just follow. Don't run ahead. Don't run far. Don't run away. Just stay, and you won't go astray.

* * *

It pays to obey and stay. When we look back, the most painful, the dirtiest and the unhappiest moments of our lives happened because we did not obey. These were moments when we chose not to remain in His love. To borrow the lines of a song: "Like a lamb in the springtime I have wandered from the fold."

Usually, in the springtime of money, youth, power and glory, we tend to run ahead and run away from the Lord. We do not only forget Him. At times we even defy Him, and actually believe that we can make it on our own and get ahead by ourselves, until some trial, some "pruning" makes us realize that we do need Him. Such is the human condition.

But the good news is that He always welcomes us home, without limits, without conditions. Too good to be true, but it is true. God loves you, more than you know, more than you realize, more than you can imagine, more than you allow yourself to be loved. So, let's be *kapal muks* (thick faced) and *kapit tuko* (hold on) to the Lord.

* * *

Some weeks ago, Arnold, a man in his late 20s walked into my office and opened his heart which was filled with so much anger against God. He could not understand why he lost his sight on his right eye because of a freak accident while he was drilling on the cement wall. He was a good person all his life. Why did this God allow such a misfortune to happen? He was deeply hurt and he was very resentful. He knew he could not fight God. ("*Sino ba naman ako?*") So he just wallowed in his deep resentment (*tampo*) and depression.

Like a child who could not understand why his loving parents "punished" him, his hurt and resentment deepened. But, grace is real and operative even, and especially so, in the lowest hell. Through it all, somehow he prayed—not to God, but to the Blessed Mother. He did not pray to God. "Tell that God that I am angry with Him" was his constant prayer to the Blessed Mother. Yes, somehow he held on. He stayed. He prayed angry, but he prayed on. By God's grace he recovered his inner sight, and found his way back to God's embrace.

* * *

At one time or another, we all have been "pruned by God" like Arnold. Like him, we too must have questioned and doubted God's love, or even perhaps hated him. That's OK. He's big enough. He can take it. He is loving enough. He understands.

Presumptuous? It is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. It is better to get angry with God than to wallow in resentment and self-pity.

* * *

Another Arnold who experienced a lot of "pruning" was Blessed Arnold Janssen who will be canonized, along with our first SVD missionary to China, Blessed Josef Freinademetz. A lot of people thought he was a fool to start a mission house at a time when there was religious persecution in Germany in 1875. Many of his co-workers abandoned him, but he held on to the vision and mission God spelled out for him. He was stubborn and unbending when it came to doing God's will. Here was a man who persisted and persevered, and remained in His love, no matter what.

* * *

Pilgrimages are now being organized for the canonization of Blessed Arnold and Josef in Rome on Oct. 5, with extensions to Lourdes and Fatima. Join us. For details please call 7217457.

* * *

May is the month of flowers. Only he who has gone through winter can really appreciate spring. I still remember my first winter in Korea as a missionary. Snow is cozy and all, but everything else around dies in winter. The bitter cold weather can be cruel to the trees. I am really amazed how they survive winter, taking it all, braving it all. And then one morning in spring, green sprouts appear again, as if shouting: "I have survived! I am alive, because I stayed put, and I stayed on!"

May we too experience many springtimes in our lifetime.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to remain in you and hold on to you no matter what. Amen.

Surfing with Angelo T. Reyes

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE FIRST time Angelo Reyes visited the INQUIRER offices was about three years ago. He was then Armed Forces chief of staff, the 27th in a long line of military officers who made it to the top of the organization.

Last Wednesday, he was back at the INQUIRER—this time as secretary of national defense, the 23rd to serve in this post which many consider a stepping stone to higher office for men of ambition.

Ramon Magsaysay was the first secretary of national defense to move from Camp Aguinaldo to Malacañang after leading a demoralized Armed Forces to a string of stirring victories over Hukbalahap forces who in 1949, were already at the gates of Manila. (We were then living in Balintawak and I remember my father telling us that we had to evacuate to Manila because of the precarious security situation.)

President Elpidio Quirino had appointed then Zambales Rep. Ramon Magsaysay to the defense post on Aug. 31, 1950, RM's birthday. Barely two months later, Magsaysay scored one of his greatest triumphs in the anti-communist campaign when agents of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) swept into more than 20 safehouses being used by the Communist Party and captured senior party leaders, including the chief, Jose Lava.

With American support, Magsaysay, an honest, proven leader and a man of the people with the ability to get things done, ran for the presidency against his former patron. In the 1953 elections, he won a landslide victory, receiving 1,688,112 votes to Quirino's 708,398.

Although presidential elections in 1981 during the martial law period were a complete farce, the opponent chosen to run against President Marcos was a former defense secretary, Alejo Santos of Bulacan. Some people say he was persuaded to run with pledges of support from the administration itself as no one in his right mind would have done so voluntarily.

Fidel V. Ramos served as AFP chief of staff and defense secretary to President Cory Aquino. He was rewarded for his staunch support for her administration against a number of coup attempts, with her blessings in the presidential campaign that ensued. As chief of staff, Ramos had begun laying the groundwork for his political campaign by establishing peace and order councils (POCs) in the provinces, cities and municipalities and also at the regional levels. By the time he was officially running, he had a network of support groups throughout the country. But the key factor in his electoral victory was President Cory's endorsement.

Renato de Villa, defense secretary under President Ramos, also made a bid for the presidency under his Reporma Party but lost to President Estrada and Speaker Jose de Venecia in the 1998 elections.

* * *

When a Cabinet official places himself at the tender mercies of editorial writers and columnists of any newspaper, one must assume that he is aiming for higher office, otherwise why go through such a wringer.

I have no doubts that Angelo Reyes is reaching for the stars, and it may be an indication of his rising stature that he has started to attract a number of negative items in the media. For as long as you remain in the trenches and keep your head down, you are not a target. But the moment you increase your visibility, you can be sure that people will begin taking potshots at you. And as the saying goes, if you can't stand the heat, better stay out of the kitchen.

Is he gunning for the Senate or even the presidency itself? Reyes was non-committal, playing it cool and coy, but make no mistake, he has area coordinating centers (ACCs) in place all over the country (just like the POCs of Ramos). He has "*depensa*" TV spot ads in prime time slots to keep him in the minds of the people, although I'm not too sure if they are as effective as those being run by the competition. For one thing, Ping Lacson's ads are more practical in terms of public identification with his accomplishments as PNP chief. In particular, the return of stolen vehicles to their owners during his time in office was something people remember.

In a lengthy exchange of views on a wide range of subjects, at times with him on the defensive much like a boxer on the ropes, Reyes laid out the military position on the MILF problem in Mindanao and called for greater active participation of other government agencies along with the citizenry in the campaign against terrorism.

* * *

To my mind, there are two things going for Angelo Reyes and he must capitalize on them if he is to succeed in his quest for higher office.

The first is his role in Edsa People Power 2 when he led the AFP high command in a momentous decision to withdraw support from President Joseph Estrada, his *compadre* and benefactor. In a time of great crisis, he was able to maintain the unity and integrity of the Armed Forces. His leadership led to a peaceful transfer of the reins of government and brought forward hope for morality in public service.

The second is his handling of the MILF problem leading to the capture of Camp Abubakar and 47 smaller areas. Recently, the dismantling of MILF positions in Buliok which was being built up as a replacement for Abubakar may have derailed peace negotiations, but we must keep in mind that when armed elements use peace talks as a screen for consolidating their positions, it becomes necessary for the AFP to act. Otherwise, we only make things more difficult for ourselves.

Now, if President Macapagal-Arroyo is truly out of the race and she bestows her blessings on Angelo Reyes, as Cory did for Ramos, he may just have a fighting chance.

Sacrificed on the altar of education

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT certainly made for heavy drama.

I'm talking about the graduation ceremonies of the AMA Computer University, attended by no less than the President, in which one graduate, Ana Marie Liamzon, asked her fellow graduates to offer their diplomas to their parents. She then remarked that she would have wanted to offer her diploma to her father, but he was working in Dubai and in fact she had not seen him in 18 years. Then the host of the ceremonies asked Ana Marie to remain onstage because her father was "on the phone." But while conversing with his daughter, Antonio Liamzon suddenly emerged into the spotlight, making his way to the stage. His wife, two younger children and especially Ana Marie were flabbergasted, with the entire family embracing and shedding copious tears.

Though she had been briefed about this bit of melodrama, President Macapagal-Arroyo was apparently so moved that her eyes began to brim with tears. TV reporters, obviously thinking this show of emotion was enough to be news, led with this show of "sentimentality" from our fearless leader.

What I find most remarkable, however, is not that the *berdugo* of the MILF is after all a softie underneath the bluster, but that an educational institution still in the process of establishing its credibility and respectability should turn its graduation ceremonies into a grand telenovela. Graduation rites are notoriously boring, stuffy affairs. But they are at least dignified and solemn, or try to be. They aren't meant to be entertaining or enjoyable. I wouldn't trust my child's education and formation to a university whose officials will go out of their way to infuse their commencement exercises with a touch of bathos and cheap entertainment.

* * *

FOR the Liamzon family, I'm sure, there was nothing cheap about this unexpected reunion, even if it had to take place in front of hundreds of AMA officials and graduates, their families and guests, and would later be used as a human interest piece in the evening newscasts.

To be fair, the AMA graduation "gimmick" at least dramatized the daily telenovelas that are the lives of hundreds of thousands of Filipino families. Ask any overseas Filipino worker why he or she is risking safety, loneliness, homesickness, alienation and morale by toiling in foreign lands and the reply is inevitably "so that my children (or younger siblings) will be able to have a quality education."

So many Filipinos down the ages have sacrificed so much on the altar of education, including the children who will have to grow up with one or both parents absent and distant, nurtured only by postcards, letters, e-mail and voice tapes. (I love that Nestlé Ice Cream ad in which a family is shown sharing dessert while the mother's voice peddles advice and instructions through a tape recording.)

That's what the Liamzons dramatized so movingly at the Araneta Coliseum. Antonio has certainly sacrificed so much, working for almost two decades in the Middle Eastern desert. But his wife and children, too, have paid a price, not the least being the hole left in their hearts and home life with Antonio's physical absence.

* * *

OFW'S are in the news for another reason: SARS. The primary means by which the disease has entered the country, it appears, is through our returning workers, who may not even know that their bodies are already harboring colonies of the corona virus.

The Department of Health makes much of the fact that no Filipino in the Philippines has acquired SARS through "local transmission," save for the elderly (and terminally ill) father of Adela Catalon, the caregiver from Canada who happened to bring SARS with her aside from the proverbial *balikbayan* box crammed with *pasalubong*.

This may reassure the worried public, but it unfortunately puts a stigma on our *balik*-workers, which is unfair in the extreme. You don't have to be an overseas worker in Hong Kong, Beijing or any other SARS hotspot to get infected. You may also be a businessman, tourist or visiting relative. The key factor is where you have been, and the possibility of having been in "close contact" with a person sick with the disease. Whether you're an OFW or just a jetsetter has nothing to do with it.

* * *

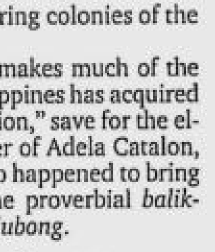
ANOTHER subset of OFWs is in the SARS limelight, but this time as "heroes" in the global struggle to contain the disease. They're health care workers—doctors, nurses, midwives, technicians and caregivers—who can be found in the frontlines of the anti-SARS struggle not just here but most anywhere there are hospitals, it seems.

I looked into the Singapore-based website of "AKQA" created to pay tribute to the folks looking after the SARS victims and putting their lives on the line in the process, and was moved by the outpouring of thankfulness from the notoriously materialistic Singaporeans. The site asked visitors to post their own messages of "Hope, prayers and words of gratitude," and when I last checked, there were 490 such missives posted.

"Another kind of war/The same kind of heroes," the main page proclaimed, and I remembered the Time magazine account of how some Singaporeans made it a point to stand below the windows of the infectious disease hospital and hold up placards expressing gratitude and encouragement to the health care workers trapped inside out of a sense of duty.

Then I remembered how the residents of two villages around the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang barred RITM employees from using their streets as a short cut or even boarding tricycles to get to their place of work. I hope these villagers realize that if anyone of them were to come down with SARS, their only hope of survival would be the willingness to serve of these same shunned RITM personnel.

Surviving the North Expressway



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WITHIN A week after I wrote my column about the dangerous situation brought about by the ongoing rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway, small but essential changes in the management of the traffic on this highway began to be instituted. These timely measures have saved many lives.

The first thing one notices is the deployment of more traffic personnel in critical portions of the expressway. Equipped with handheld radios, they monitor traffic flow in the critical zones where counterflow is in operation. At specific times, the northbound traffic is allowed to occupy two lanes, while the leaner southbound traffic is confined to one lane.

The increase in traffic minders is very reassuring, but I think some of them slightly overdo it when they stand in the middle of a fast two-way lane as if they were directing traffic in Quiapo. I hope they are insured.

Those dangerous plastic traffic cones bisecting the highway have at last been removed. In places where they are being used, I noticed that workers have nailed them to the ground to prevent them from being swept away by speeding trucks and buses. I have also seen a number of highway personnel in makeshift tents offering assistance to motorists along the whole stretch of the construction area. I only wish they would also install more portable toilets and carve out temporary parking bays for commuters who have to stop and seek relief from what may sometimes be a kidney-busting journey.

Traffic is still bad on the Candaba viaduct. There are many signs advising motorists to stay on their lanes and avoid swerving, but none telling them to slow down because there is heavy traffic ahead. In my previous column, I had proposed the installation of moveable yellow blinking lights ahead of an expected traffic buildup. This is to alert unwary drivers who may be cruising at a speed that disables them from braking smoothly when they come suddenly upon the tail of vehicles on full stop. Alternatively, traffic personnel can be positioned at some distance from the traffic buildup to signal drivers to slow down and keep to their lanes.

Vehicles that insist on using the narrow outer lane for overtaking are still a problem. These are the ones who impede the flow of merging traffic. As the lanes merge into one, creating a funnel, big buses and trucks muscle their way aggressively into the inner lane, using sheer size as a weapon. The principle of alternately merging traffic is as alien to them as road courtesy, and the traffic personnel seem not to mind them.

The day after my column appeared, I received a letter from Wilfredo Cu, acting president and chief executive officer of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), assuring me that they have taken serious note of my concerns and suggestions, and that they are instituting various means "to achieve safety" and promote the "convenience of the motoring public." I have no doubt they have done so.

Cu's letter, however, left me wondering about the highway billboards that I said were a hazard to travel and an injury to the spirit. "Unfortunately," he wrote, "these billboards are installed beyond our jurisdiction and unless a law is passed disallowing billboard installation near highway perimeters, I suppose we have to endure (quoting me) 'the subliminal and unfair intrusion upon our most unguarded moments' by these advertising materials." Who owns the horizon then? Shouldn't the PNCC find out?

Too bad Cu has chosen not to take responsibility for something that fundamentally affects the quality and safety of travel on an expressway he manages. Now I don't know whom to thank for the removal of some of those billboards along the viaduct. The last time I passed there, I saw many empty billboard frames. The one that has however remained solidly planted against the horizon—truly a vexation to the spirit—is a huge "B-meg" portrait of a well-fed pig.

I have heard it said, more than once, that our traffic situation is so symptomatic of the general state of governance in our country that, if we could only figure out how to solve our problems on the road, we should be able to set the whole country right. This proposition may seem an oversimplification of our society's current state, but it does synthesize many commonsense insights into the nature of our problems as a nation.

Gridlock epitomizes the current state of our public life. Now and then our society grinds to a halt only because a few self-seeking individuals among us try to get ahead by ignoring all the rules and flouting good sense, leaving everyone stuck in the gridlock they create. Worse, these individuals become models of survival in a culture without a clear moral compass.

We should not hope to ensure the smooth flow of vehicles by adding traffic personnel and relying on them indefinitely. A large part of order on the road has to come from the internal discipline of the motoring public. That discipline does not take root overnight. Rather it is acquired slowly, if painfully, by citizens who come to respect the law not so much because they learn that failure to do so triggers punishment, but because they realize that following the law ultimately brings good results for everybody.

We cannot teach our people the rule of alternate merging into a common lane by posting policemen on both sides of the road. For that rule is based on the basic grace of giving way, and on the ethical principle of queuing and waiting for one's turn, values that are first learned not on the street but at home and at school.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Appeal to GMA

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Part of the reason people go on vacation is to recharge or renew their energies. In a work-driven environment, like a university, you feel like climbing walls after a while, with students' examination papers piling up, grant proposals nearing deadlines, never-ending committee meetings, plus the teaching, writing, community work and other chores faculty members are expected to do. You look forward to the "spring break," a period of renewal, a rite of passage.

Then comes the depression again. Coming back from vacation this time, I was more than depressed. All because of a letter waiting for me, a letter from prison I had written more than a year ago.

Let me back up a little bit to put things in perspective. I was writing about the case of Irenio Fajardo, who has been in prison since 1997, following his conviction as the principal suspect in the high-profile kidnapping of Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji of Mitsui Co. more than 10 years before. Pressured by Tokyo to resolve the case, involving as it did an important Japanese businessman, the Philippine government had to produce results. Even Jaime Cardinal Sin was involved in the negotiations for the victim's release. Mitsui was reported to have delivered a $3-million ransom, which the cardinal called a "donation" to cover the victim's expenses. When asked by the media who the kidnappers were, the cardinal replied in his usual genial manner that he knew who they were but "can't reveal their identities."

The police identified the New People's Army as having masterminded the kidnapping, and Fajardo, who was then working in Canlubang where Wakaoji was abducted, was picked up as a suspect. He was tortured and detained at Camp Crame and forced to admit his guilt without benefit of counsel. He wrote to the cardinal several times.

His sister in Honolulu, Dr. Sabina Swift, and her husband Steve spent much of their waking hours writing to Amnesty International and several presidents starting with Cory Aquino about the plight of Irenio. Sabina, who works as a research scientist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, even wrote to Wakaoji himself, seeking his help, for surely he must have known who really kidnapped him. Sabina said her brother was framed up. Irenio, who didn't even know his way around the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, couldn't have pulled off the kidnapping, she argued. He was just a convenient scapegoat for political reasons.

Sabina gave me a copy of her letter to Wakaoji dated April 13, 1987. When Wakaoji was released, she said in her letter, her brother Irenio "jumped with joy to the surprise of his captors.... He believes, we all believe, that you are the only one who can help him, us and the other innocent people in this case, who had been picked up, killed, or unheard of now..." It turned out that another of Sabina's brothers was also on the "hit list," but he was tipped off on time by his friends and was able to hide.

Wakaoji died some years later.

Irenio was able to post bail, but his nightmarish experience with the military and police traumatized him so much that he skipped bail. And one day several years later, he was caught and once again thrown into the slammer. And he has been there ever since, in spite of the fact that the recent killing of Romulo Kintanar affirmed what had long been known: that the NPA was behind Wakaoji's kidnapping.

So, President Macapagal-Arroyo, why is Irenio still in jail? He should have been set free the moment the truth came out, following revelations after Kintanar's assassination. Irenio has sworn his innocence over and over. He has been interviewed on TV. Meanwhile, Sabina and Steve and the whole family have renewed their letter writing, contacting various people and organizations. What more can they do?

Just watching the whole scene is maddening. A whole family has been ruined on both sides of the Pacific by this blatant miscarriage of justice. Only you can rectify this deplorable situation.

Let me quote from the letter I got from Irenio after my vacation. I have never met nor seen this guy, but I feel like I know him very well from what Sabina has told me. He wrote from his cell in Muntinlupa:

"Greetings of Peace Be With You. I am always grateful to you, for having time, giving attention to my case, and with your participation and concern, after a lengthy process, somehow, developments have begun to take place, with the government's realization of the issues raised by the leftist organization, revealing the plans in the abduction of Wakaoji, which directly portrays my innocence. I assume that the good news has reached you, and I am hopeful that the Arroyo administration will approve my release, the soonest time possible, based on statements made by the communists, as I view to be responsible reporting, and nevertheless, despite my wrongful conviction, with the present revelations that have cropped up, it is for me to remain faithful to our justice system. And if ever I am to be included by the Parole Board, to be discharged from prison, it is my fervent wish to visit Hawaii in order for me to give thanks and appreciation to you, to my sister Sabina and family, and to all those who sympathized knowing that I suffered needlessly....

"After all the pain and years wasted in prison, I feel that I can still have time to catch up and spend my remaining years with my loved ones. I will always remember you, a good friend and benefactor. I hope that the day will come when we can [illegible] in person, and share moments of thanksgiving with my family. God bless you, thanks so much for your kindness and understanding."

Here's a guy who has been beaten black and blue and has every reason to be bitter at the world for what he's been through. But irony of ironies, he still has faith in our justice system. Something doesn't add, but this "conversion" or whatever you call it must have happened after long, lonely years in prison. I think it happened to Ninoy Aquino. Irenio could easily have snapped or gone amok, but he has remained calm all these years in the penitentiary away from his family and all. The thing is, he didn't even commit a crime as the unraveling of the real events has shown! If this thing had happened in Hawaii or elsewhere, he would have been awarded several millions for wrongful conviction.

So, Your Excellency, this man of peace should not only be released at once. He should be pardoned. Otherwise, the "crime" that he never committed will remain in the books. Otherwise, he will be tainted for life. Otherwise, he will never be at peace. Otherwise, he will never be able to travel to Hawaii, the paradise he truly deserves after his years of torment in hell.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Should opening of classes be moved to September?

A PUBLIC debate has ensued following President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to the Department of Education and the Department of Health to study the feasibility of moving the opening of classes from June to September. The President told DepEd and DOH last week to take into account the health and safety of students and the practicality of adjusting the school calendar.

Those who support the idea of moving the start of classes to September mention the suspension of classes on many occasions because of floods and typhoons in June-August, the rainiest period of the year.

As far as the DepEd is concerned this is a minority view. Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus says his constituency prefers the opening of classes in June. He has the support of DOH and the Metro Manila Development Authority. But the DOH prefers delaying the school opening two weeks to give schools more time to prepare for the threat of severe acute respiratory syndrome.

A student organization sees a different reason behind Ms Macapagal's call to study the possibility of moving the opening of classes to September. The National Union of Students of the Philippines says changing the school calendar has less to do with flooding than with restructuring the education system to conform with those abroad in view of the coming influx of foreign schools. Incidentally, US schools open in September.

'DepEd prefers June opening'

MY opinion is guided by what the constituency of the Department of Education prefers. Thus far, what the constituency prefers is the opening of classes not in September but in June.

On SARS, we are just following the recommendation of the Department of Health, which says that there is no need to delay the opening of classes. *Edilberto de Jesus, education secretary*

The rainy season problem can be dealt with in an easy and yet effective manner. The DepEd should coordinate with the weather bureau so that timely advisories on the suspension of classes can be issued. People may say that students get stranded during the months of June up to August because of floods. Then, it is the duty of the Department of Public Works and Highways to remedy the problem. It has to find a way to unclog sewers to prevent floods. *Fred Marco Magdaug, San Sebastian College, Manila*

'Moving the opening will do everybody good'

YES. First of all, the months June to July are the times the rainy season is at its peak. These are the times my daughter, who studies at the Far Eastern University in Manila, is most vulnerable to colds and flu. If the start of classes is moved to September, the chances of her getting sick because of the weather may be lessened. Also, classes won't be suspended due to rains, thus terms will be more productive. Another reason is that dealing with traffic and floods caused by rain will not be an everyday irritation to commuting students. If you look at it at all angles, moving the school opening will do everybody good. *Imelda Samson, Quezon City*

'Defer opening of classes for two weeks'

ON public health grounds, we at the Department of Health believe that there is no compelling reason or evidence to support the said move (postponing start of classes until September).

Therefore the DOH does not favorably endorse the postponement of the opening of classes to September, due to the following reasons:

1. If the reason being cited is to prevent panic and anxiety among schoolchildren, teachers and parents due to the SARS scare or even the transmission of the SARS virus in schools then the postponement of classes will not at all help in containing the disease since the SARS contagion will most likely affect the global communities way beyond September 2003.

2. If the reason is the expected heavy rains during the months of June to August, which may result in floods and heavy traffic, then the solution would be effective flood and traffic control mechanisms rather than the postponement of classes. Even if students are not attending classes during these months, there is still a probability of them getting infected with leptospirosis, diarrhea and other flood-borne diseases as these children may still find other things to do when there are no classes, including wading or playing in floodwaters.

3. If opening of classes is moved to September it means that children will be going to school during summer when it is going to be very hot.

Aside from the discomfort and distraction that may result from the heat, especially among majority of students who are in non-airconditioned rooms, they may also run the risk of suffering from dehydration or heat stroke.

All arguments considered we therefore highly recommend that:

1. Opening of classes be deferred for two weeks but still push through in June. However, given the concern about SARS, the DOH recommends that the first two weeks be dedicated to raising the preparedness of schools with regard to public health measures against SARS and other public health problems such as dengue, leptospirosis, etc. This preparedness campaign can be focused on conducting a more vigorous information campaign in SARS among school administrators, faculty, personnel, parents (and students if possible) before the start of classes.

2. The DOH and DepEd work collaboratively to define and build consensus on the details of the preparedness effort.

3. Flood and traffic control mechanisms be put in place now while it is still summertime. Delaying the start of classes for two weeks will also give more time for public works to be conducted to address the above mentioned issues and concerns.

To conclude the DOH believes that in response to the situation at the moment, it would be in the interest of all parties concerned to accelerate SARS and rainy season preparedness among schools rather than postpone the opening of classes to September. *Manuel Dayrit, health secretary, in a May 14 letter to Sen. Francis Pangilinan, acting chair of the Senate committee on education*

SEPTEMBER
1
JUNE
1
6
15
30
NO CLASSES
stephB.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

'MMDA is ready for the floods'

WE should learn from the lessons of the past. The proposal to move the opening of classes from June to September was done before. It was moved back to its present schedule because it didn't work.

The decision is really up to DepEd. It would help if education officials retrieve their records and check why the rescheduling didn't work then.

As far as the Metro Manila Development Authority is concerned, we want to stick to the June schedule. We all know that the strongest typhoons arrive beginning September until late in the year.

If the opening of classes is moved to September, classes may face more postponements because of the weather.

In any case, our flood-control strategies are in place. The MMDA is ready this time. *Bayani Fernando, chair, MMDA*

People anticipate the hardships that come with the opening of classes, which is scheduled for June 9. Foremost are the difficulties encountered during the rainy season. Heavy or even slight rain causes flooding and paralyzes transportation, which lead to noticeable absences in the classrooms, if not the suspension of classes.

The clamor to move the opening of classes to September became the favorite talk of the town. People from all walks of life seem to agree with the proposal to move the opening of classes.

If we are to listen to the opinions of guests on radio and television programs, or believe in the results of a survey through text, we will be convinced that we really ought to move the opening of classes. That seems to be the solution to the perennial problem of absences when rains pour on the metropolis.

The demand seems to be nationwide, but not much from the side of the people from DepEd. We have tried the scheme in the late 1970s. Experiences point out that no advantage on the part of the studentry was recorded. Absenteeism, suspension of classes, and other problems persist. Typhoons and rains occur heavily in the months of August to November. Besides, sociological factors come in. The celebration of fiestas and summer outings could lead to absenteeism. There is also much discomfort in the classrooms during summer due to extreme heat.

Summing up, changing the opening of classes from June to September is futile. *Virginia V. de la Cruz, officer-in-charge, Bitik Elementary School, Valenzuela City*

'Classes during rainy season are often suspended'

YES. Because of floods, classes during the rainy season are almost always suspended. Just look at how poor the quality of education in the Philippines is. Our quality of education doesn't measure up to those of other countries. The more classes students miss, the more they get left behind (and) the more our country lags behind. If we want to catch up with other countries, (then) we have to improve our (educational) standards. We have to make sure that students don't find a reason to absent themselves from classes just because of the rains and floods. The only remedy to all our problems is to improve education in the Philippines. *Jannie Rose Apolinar, Political Science, Centro Escolar University, Manila*

If classes open in September, school vacation will fall on the rainy season, during the months of June to August. This way, terms wouldn't be disrupted due to the cancellation of classes because of rains and floods. Also, children won't get sick because of the bad weather. *Maxi Ricafort, mother*

'I'd rather prefer heavy rains than extreme heat'

MOVING the opening of classes could be both acceptable and unacceptable. Acceptable, because we are taking precautions against SARS.

Unacceptable, because it would be disadvantageous to me as a student. In the new system, if adopted, I wouldn't be enjoying school as much as before. I would feel uneasy to have classes until May. The heat by that time (March to May) would bring my concentration down. I'd rather have heavy rains than extreme heat. *Gio Javier, 3rd year high school La Salle-Antipolo*

If it's just about rain, then it's not enough reason to move the opening of classes. I don't think they can use the rainy season to justify that (September opening). We've already managed to go to school during previous rainy seasons. If SARS is the reason, then yes, it's okay. And what about summer vacation? That's the only time we have for ourselves. We can forget about schoolwork. We relax a bit to be more ready, physically and mentally, next school year.

If they're going to move vacations during the rainy season, then (they) might as well not give us any vacation at all. How do you enjoy vacations when you can't even do the things you want to do or you can't go where you want to go? That's hardly a vacation. *James Miranda, 3rd year BS Biochemistry, UP Manila*

HEARING about going back to school in September may bring joy to some students because the new schedule would mean three more months added to the summer vacation. But this may bring problems. In two months, much knowledge can fade and, at times, be forgotten. What more in five months?

The proposal was discussed before. Some say this will do us good because too many absences by students and teachers due to floods can be avoided. But we have been used to that situation. We survived many storms in between school years. Classes were suspended many times before, but students and teachers could still catch up with the lessons.

Another reason that has been brought up in connection with rescheduling the opening of classes is SARS. But as people see it, we haven't really been affected by this illness. Most people don't even care that SARS has reached the country. People still go to crowded places, unprotected, without any worries. *Rachelle Javier, 2nd year high school St. Paul College-Pasig*

Mitsubishi introduces new 2003 Space Gear

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines introduced to the members the press and media the new 2003 Mitsubishi Space Gear. This was held at the Le Pavillion, in Roxas Boulevard Manila in a simple ceremony headed by MMPC president and CEO, Teruhiko Shibata. Shibata remarked that "The addition of the new 2003 Space Gear in our line up now complements our LCV model line up. We are now positioned to further improve our market share especially in the passenger van segment."

Besides bearing the Mitsubishi brand that has gained reputation for dependability and reliability, the new 2003 Space Gear features significant improvements in its exterior and interior appointments making it the ideal family van. On exterior features, the 2003 Space Gear was given a new personality with its new front face. The new front face is highlighted by the new grille and new headlamp design which gives the Space Gear a refined and elegant look. New rear combination headlamps as well as new front and rear bumpers also complement the Space Gear's fresh and modern styling.

The new Space Gear incorporates a new high roof design for improved interior headroom. Dual sliding doors are now also standard for convenience and easy access. It can be noted that Mitsubishi pioneered the dual sliding door concept in its L300 vans. 15-inch aerodynamic alloy wheels fitted on 215/65R15 radial tires are also standard on the 2003 Space Gear.

Balance of power and economy is achieved as the new Space Gear is equipped with a new 2.4 liter 4G64 multi-point injected 16-valve engine. The new engine is appropriately matched to a smooth shifting electronically controlled 4-speed automatic with overdrive. The new 4G64 engine yields a maximum output of 132 PS @ 5,500 rpm and 19.6 kg-m @ 2,500 rpm of torque.

The new Space Gear's level of comfort was also improved. The van rides on front double wishbone and 5-link coil spring rear suspensions with stabilizer bars, providing enhanced riding comfort. Seats were improved considerably to provide a more relaxing ride for both driver and passengers. Side armrest for the driver seat and center armrests are standard for 2nd and 3rd row seats. Power features are also standard such as power windows, door locks, and power side mirrors. And in order to entertain passengers during long journeys or just coping with the Manila traffic, the new Space Gear is equipped with a huge 10.4 inch LCD monitor, which is so far the biggest video monitor equipped in a vehicle. It is supported by the Mitsubishi Motors Video Entertainment System (MMVES) which features a Kenwood single in-dash CD/VCD player and 4 speaker system which provide clear, crisp and hi-fidelity surround system. Meanwhile, glass printed antenna on the rear quarter glass of the Space Gear supports AM and FM stereo reception.

The new 2003 Mitsubishi Space Gear is available at all dealerships nationwide and is priced at P1,090,000.

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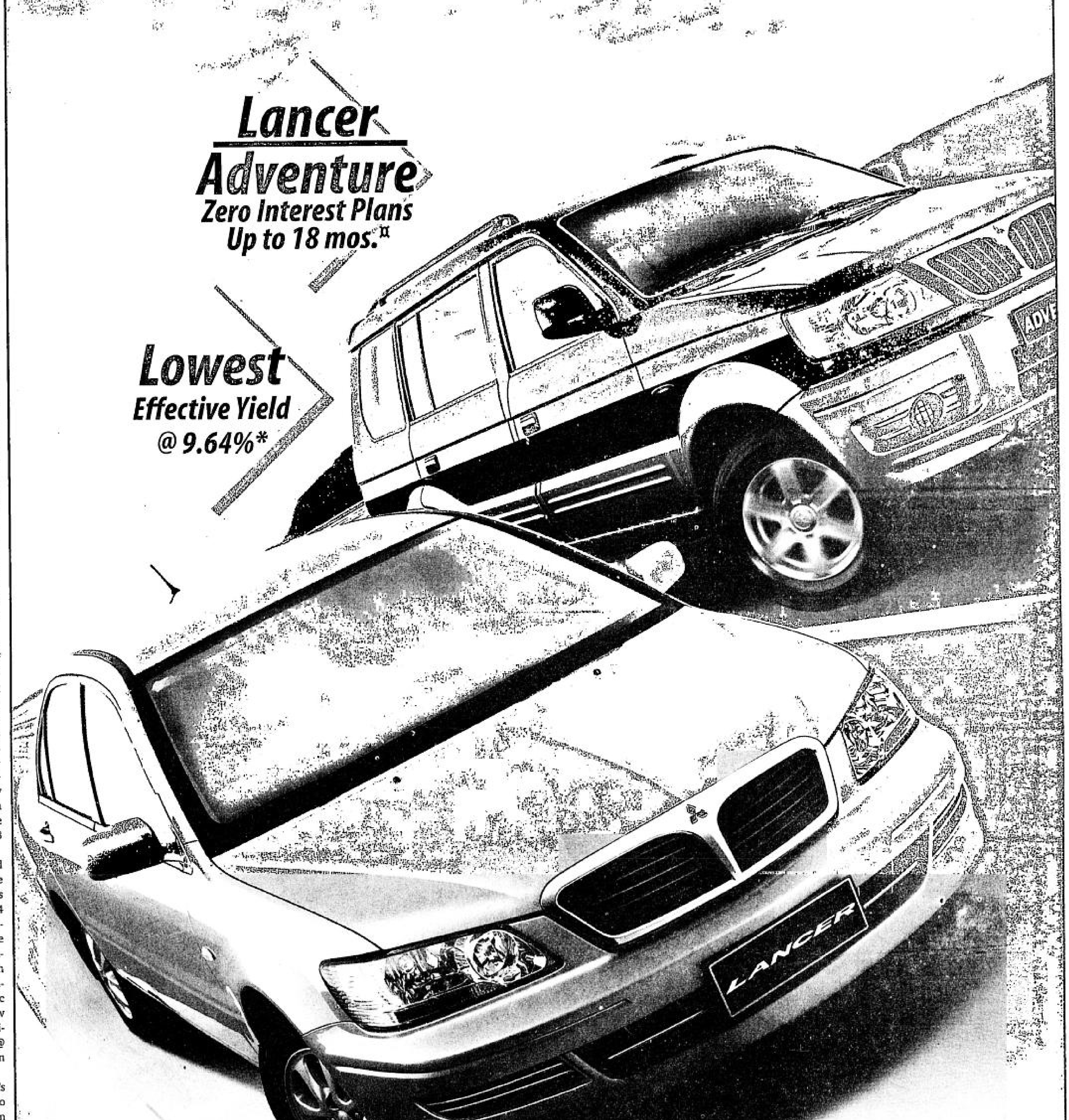

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2003 Super Sport M/T	790,000	395,000	32,917	21,944	18,414	13,173	10,629	9,373***	118,000	31,101	22,248	15,830
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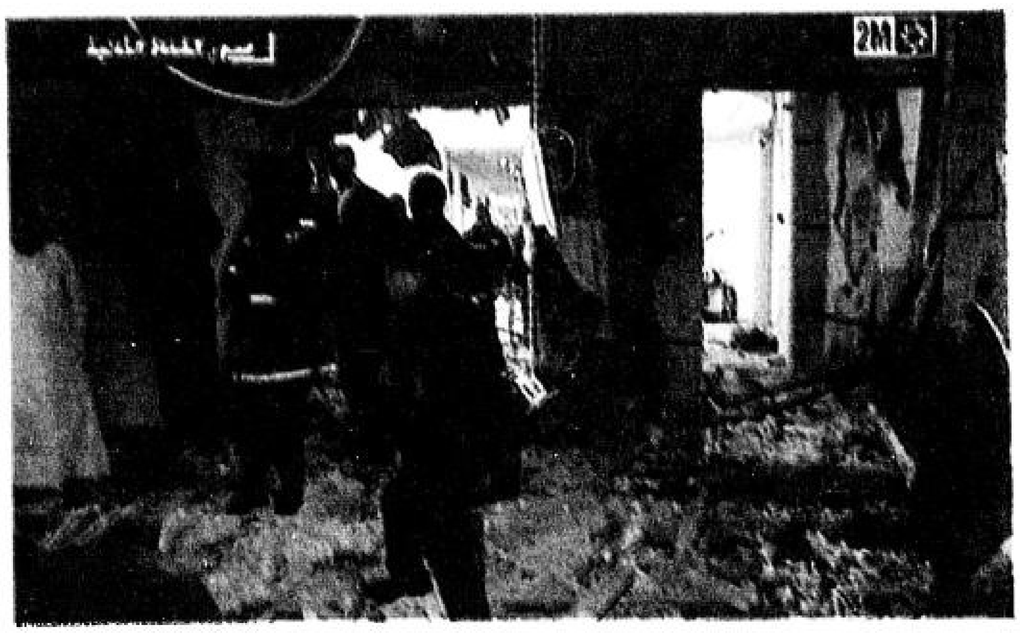
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bomb blasts kill 40 in Casablanca



A FRAME grab taken from 2M Morocco television shows officials as they inspect the damaged interior of the Hotel Safir following a suicide bomb attack in Casablanca. REUTERS

CASABLANCA—At least 40 people died and around 100 were injured when several bomb blasts caused carnage near a foreign consulate, an international hotel, a Jewish center and a Spanish restaurant in Morocco's business capital of Casablanca, officials said Saturday.

Officials in the overwhelmingly Muslim north African country blamed the attacks, which sparked scenes of carnage in the Atlantic coast city just after 10 p.m. on Friday, on "international terrorism."

While the targets were places frequented by foreigners, most of the casualties were local inhabitants, they said.

Ten of the dead were described as suicide bombers who, at least in part, had carried out the attacks.

Interior Minister Mostafa Sahel added that three Moroccan suspects, one of them alleged to have been a would-be suicide bomber who was injured, had been arrested.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. The identities of the dead were not yet known, although the official MAP news agency said they included a hotel doorman and two police officers.

Officials said three of the bombs were in cars, which exploded outside the city's Belgian consulate, the Safir hotel and a Jewish cultural center.

The attack which apparently killed the most people took place at Casa España, a Spanish cultural center and nearby Spanish restaurant, where many people were eating.

At least 18 people were believed to have been killed in either one or two bomb blasts there, although little debris was visible from outside.

The main explosion was inside the center, where some 100 people had been having dinner, according to an official at the center.

Witnesses of the attack on the Jewish center said that the bodies of two suicide bombers were pulled out of the rubble.

They said the toll would have been much higher had the center not been hit on Friday night, after the start of the Jewish Sabbath.

The interior minister said there were similarities between the attacks in Casablanca and those in Saudi Arabia on Monday, in which 34 people were killed.

The Saudi attacks have been widely blamed on the Islamic extremist group al-Qaida, although no group has claimed responsibility.

Sahel charged that the terrorists' goal was to disrupt Morocco's democratic process and its political pluralism.

"Morocco will not be intimidated by those who choose to kill innocent people," he vowed.

A leader of the opposition Justice and Development Party condemned the bombings as "a savage terrorist crime." *AFP*

Spike in terror 'chatter' puts West on edge

WASHINGTON—Alarmed by a huge increase in intercepted communications indicating that al-Qaida-related terrorist attacks may be imminent, western countries have put their citizens on alert in the Middle East, East Africa and Southeast Asia.

The United States, Australia and Britain —which have stepped up their intelligence cooperation since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington—have issued a flurry of terrorism warnings in recent days.

Other nations—such as Germany and Denmark—have followed suit.

The fears have been made all the more real by Monday's triple suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia, blamed on al-Qaida, which killed 34 people at compounds housing western nationals, officials say.

"There has been a definite increase in chatter over the past couple of weeks," said one US official, referring to intercepted telephone and e-mail conversations and interrogations of terror suspects by intelligence agencies.

"We are very concerned about possible attacks," a second US official said.

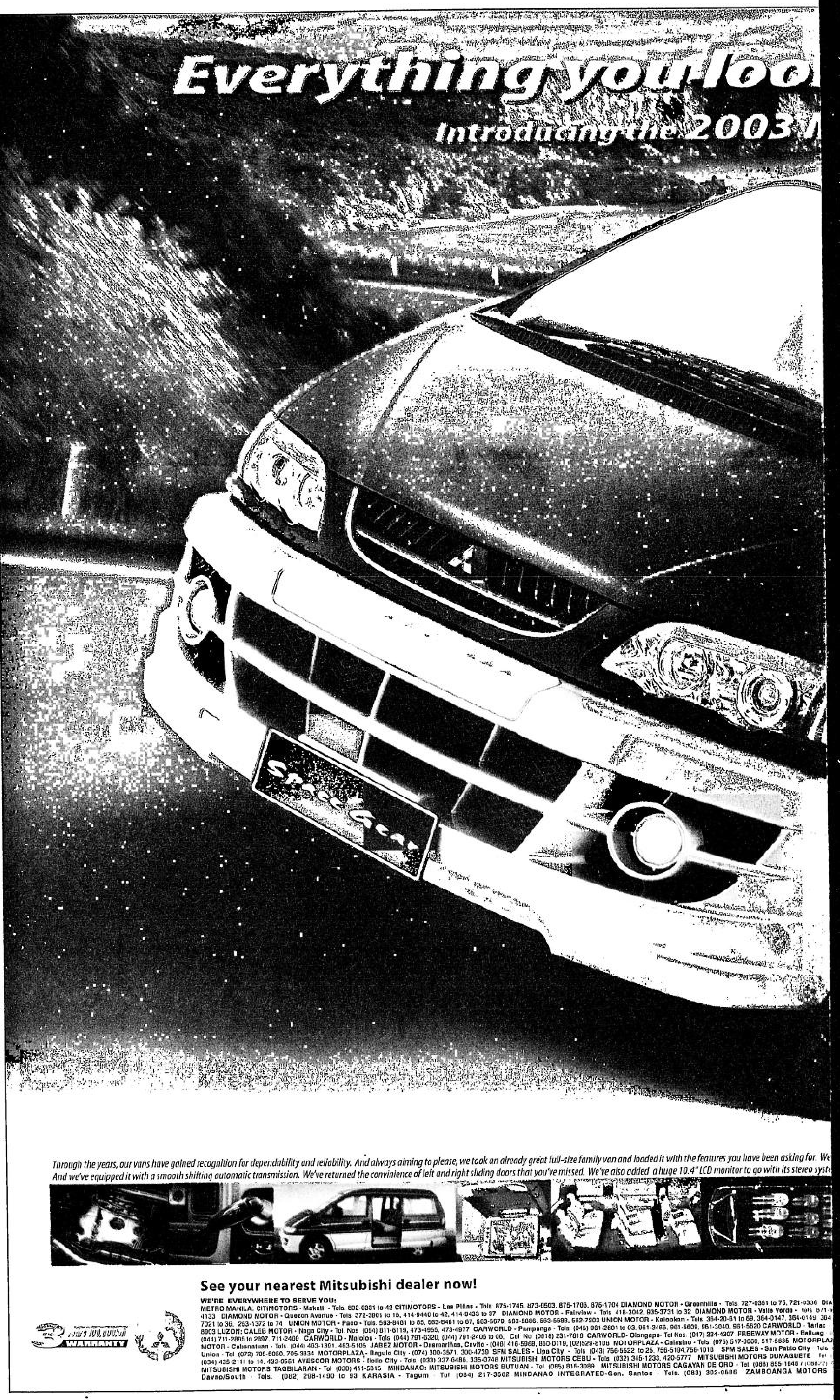
"I don't know if I could characterize them as 'imminent' in the sense of the next hour or day, but there are a lot of signs that something or some things are being planned and are coming, coming soon," the official said.

The officials said the intercepts were gathered not only from suspected al-Qaida operatives but also from people believed to be affiliated with the network who either operate on their own or as part of a group that shares Osama bin Laden's anti-West agenda.

Since the beginning of this month, the US State Department has released regional terrorism alerts covering the Middle East, North Africa, the Gulf and East Africa to supplement an April 21 global warning.

Over the same time, the department has issued country-specific alerts for Saudi Arabia—where it has ordered all non-essential diplomats and the families of all embassy and consulate personnel to leave—as well as for Kenya and Malaysia.

And the US embassies in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia have put out so-called "warden notices" alerting Americans to the danger. On May 9, the embassy in Dar es Salaam said extremist Muslim groups may mark this week's anniversary of the birth of the prophet Mohammed with terrorist attacks. *AFP*



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WHO says China doctors still underreporting SARS cases

BEIJING/TAIPEI—The World Health Organization said on Saturday some confused Chinese doctors were underreporting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome infections, as Taiwan announced a record one-day rise in cases of the deadly virus.

Singapore may be just a day away from being declared SARS-free and the WHO expressed confidence that Hong Kong too had the virus under control, but 34 new infections in Taiwan took the global tally to at least 7,770, with 610 deaths.

The WHO said it was still too early to say if China—the worst hit country with 275 deaths and more than 5,000 cases—was past its peak of SARS cases, because doctors were not fully reporting cases due to misunderstandings about the symptoms.

But China's health ministry reported yesterday seven new SARS deaths and 28 new cases.

The announcement took the nationwide death toll to 282 and the cumulative number of cases to 5,219.

The WHO criticized China in April for dramatically underreporting cases of SARS and the world's most populous country responded by sacking its health minister and the mayor of Beijing for negligence.

After visits by WHO officials to Beijing hospitals, the United Nations agency said it was concerned that some cases were being excluded because patients had no known contact with a SARS victim or because they had mild symptoms that soon cleared up.

"They fit the case definition but because they get better in a few days they are not seen as probable cases," Daniel Chin, the head of WHO's Beijing team of SARS experts, said in a statement.

The patients were being sent home or moved out of isolation wards to general wards, where they could infect others, he said.

"Clinicians are making this decision because there's an assumption .that SARS patients must be very sick. But there's a spectrum of severity for SARS," Chin said.

Taiwan, the third worst affected area after mainland China and Hong Kong, said on Saturday the number of cases there had jumped by 34 to 308—putting more pressure on an island that has already been hit hard by the disease.

"If the spread of SARS lasts for several more months, I don't know if we can stand it," said Wu Ah-chung, a French restaurant chef. With patrons too scared to dine out, he said, sales had fallen by a third.

Taiwan's health minister quit on Friday to take responsibility for the spread of the virus through the island's hospitals. A large Taipei department store closed its doors on Saturday for four days of cleaning, after a staff member was hospitalized as a suspected SARS case. *Reuters*

Bush takes first step in his reelection bid

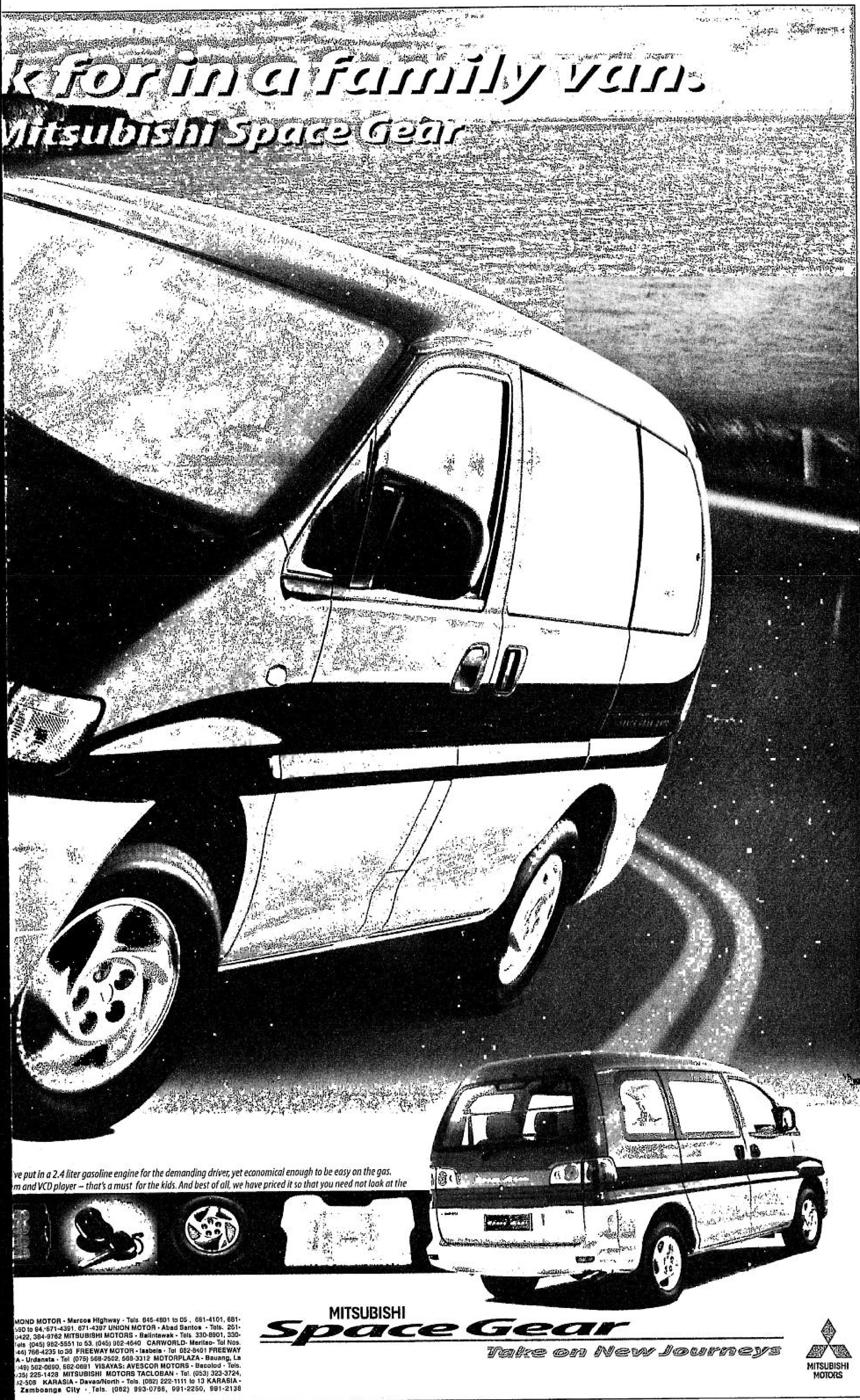
WASHINGTON—With little fanfare, President George W. Bush took the first step in his race for a second term on Friday by filing legal documents that will allow him to raise campaign money and organize his reelection bid.

Bush, hailed by Americans for leading the war on terrorism but facing questions about his stewardship of the US economy, hopes to use the power of incumbency to portray himself as above the political fray, while a group of nine Democrats battle it out for their party's nomination.

"The American people will decide whether or not I deserve a second term. In the meantime I am focusing my attention today on helping people find work," Bush told reporters as he left the White House for a weekend at Camp David.

Bush will not make a formal announcement speech any time soon, although on Wednesday night he will address the annual President's Dinner that will raise up to $12 million for Republican congressional candidates. The first fund-raiser for the president's reelection campaign will likely be in June.

White House political director Karl Rove will run the campaign from the White House and political aide Ken Melhman will become Bush's campaign manager, White House and Republican officials said. *Reuters*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Jakarta says Aceh talks on despite threats

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—Indonesia said on Friday last-minute talks to save a peace deal for Aceh province would go ahead despite threats by rebel leaders to derail negotiations.

Indonesia's chief security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said the talks "will be held in Tokyo tomorrow" and hoped they would result in a "return to the basic concept of peace."

The talks aim to rescue a December peace pact and avert one of Indonesia's biggest military operations in decades.

Earlier, a separatist leader said negotiations would be delayed unless a group of detained colleagues was released.

Speaking after a late night meeting with key cabinet members and security officials, Yudhoyono did not say when the rebel GAM representatives held in the provincial capital Banda Aceh would be freed.

The five men were leaving Banda Aceh—1,700 km northwest of Jakarta—for Japan when there were stopped by police who said they did not have the necessary exit papers.

National Police Chief, Da'i Bachtiar, said the men could not be released until police had received documents from the Geneva-based Henry Dunant Center (HDC), which brokered the December peace accord.

"We asked the HDC in Banda Aceh if it was true they (the GAM representatives) would be needing to come to Tokyo and we asked HDC for a letter. But HDC has not answered our request," Da'i Bachtiar told reporters after the meeting.

Mahmood Malik, leading the GAM delegation in Tokyo, said he was disappointed and shocked that police had detained his colleagues.

"We will go anyway, but if our delegation from Aceh does not attend, talks will be stalled," Malik, whom GAM considers its prime minister, said in Stockholm before boarding a plane for Tokyo. Exiled rebel leaders are based in the Swedish capital. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Iraq Baathists face ban

BAGHDAD—Iraq's US-run administration said on Friday it would ban loyalists of Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baath party from public office as Washington battled to win backing for a UN resolution scrapping sanctions. In a move that recalled the "denazification" of Germany after Hitler's defeat in 1945, officials said they would ban 15,000 to 30,000 Baath party diehards from public service jobs in Iraq through stringent screening. The United States and Britain, whose forces ousted Saddam last month, also announced plans to convene a national conference in Iraq as soon as possible to help form a fully-fledged interim government. But details remained vague. *Reuters*

US Senate passes AIDS bill

WASHINGTON—The US Senate early on Friday passed a $15 billion bill aimed at slowing the AIDS pandemic ravaging the world's poorest countries in what one senator called "the greatest humanitarian crisis in the 21st century." The measure passed on a voice vote with broad bipartisan support, despite disagreement about some components. The House previously passed similar legislation. President George W. Bush made the bill a priority in his State of the Union address this year. At a time when AIDS kills one person every 10 seconds, the bill will make anti-viral treatment available to about 2 million HIV-infected people in Africa and the Caribbean who cannot afford the costly cocktail of drugs that can prolong and improve their lives. It will also provide hospice care for the dying, help some of the 13 million children who have lost one or both parents, and intensify prevention programs through strategies like sexual abstinence education and promotion of condom use. *Reuters*

Annan appeals for Congo

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked Security Council members on Friday to urgently consider a rapid reaction force of about 1,000 troops for the eastern Congo where fighting has left hundreds dead and thousands of people homeless and hungry. In a letter to the 15-member council, Annan said he believed the situation around the town of Bunia in the Ituri region could worsen even though a truce was signed in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, on Friday among the warring parties and Congo President Joseph Kabila. France offered to send troops but only if other countries, like Britain, joined in a multinational force. South Africa has also expressed willingness. Security Council members, fearing a large scale massacre, are expected to give such a force a mandate in a resolution early next week, diplomats said. *Reuters*

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Across the NATION

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Bishop raps 'fraudulent' special polls in Isabela

ILAGAN, Isabela—A Catholic bishop here has called for the declaration of "failure of election" on May 12 in the fourth district of Isabela due to alleged massive fraud.

In a pastoral letter to be read in all Catholic churches in the province today, Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Ilagan diocese said the failure of election should be declared due to "glaring irregularities."

"The special election for congressman of the fourth congressional district is the most fraudulent election ever. It was a day of infamy," Utleg said.

He called for the resignation of the board of election canvassers for allegedly yielding to pressure from top local officials in the province.

The board, however, denied any knowledge of the reported election fraud.

The members also clarified that they were not pressured by local officials and that they acted on their own as election canvassers.

They urged the complainants to file a formal protest at the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal. They, however, said they merely canvassed the election returns submitted by the election officers from seven towns and Santiago City.

"Manipulative hands curtailed the truth. This could just be a prologue to the 2004 elections. We condemn in highest terms the irregularities," Utleg said.

He debunked claims that the election irregularities were mere speculations, saying "these were facts reported by our volunteers."

Utleg said the Commission on Elections did not immediately allow the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, an accredited election watchdog, to guard the canvassing of votes.

"Hours later, the PPCRV volunteers were allowed. Such delay was done deliberately and it had caused so much harm for the truth. The canvassing of votes was not made open to the public," he said.

He added: "The sixth copies of election returns were not given to PPCRV volunteers in most precincts."

Despite the allegations, the district board of canvassers proclaimed lawyer Giorgidi Aggabao winner on May 13. His rival, Dr. Asuncion Abaya, was surprised by the Comelec count, as she said she won by 4,969 votes over Aggabao.

The Comelec count showed Aggabao got 53,444 votes while Abaya got 41,998. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Fish kill threatens Paoay Lake

PAOAY, Ilocos Norte—Another round of fish kill looms at the government-protected Paoay Lake National Park here as the lake's water level continues to drop amid intense heat at the peak of summer.

The receding water level is compounded by the frequent withdrawal of water for the maintenance of a nearby golf course.

At least five communities here depend on the 368-hectare protected lake for fish caging. Around 150 fish cage operators were given permits to engage in tilapia culture for livelihood.

The late strongman Ferdinand Marcos declared the lake and its peripheral boundaries protected park in 1969.

The lake's dwindling water source was reported by Ludivino Agresor, park superintendent, to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in January this year. The board acts as the park's policy-making and law enforcement body.

Agresor noted that the lake's water level had dropped to one meter beyond its critical level.

"Withdrawal of water should have been suspended during that period because the lake water was rapidly depleting. We feared that this might result in another fish kill," said Edgar Padayao, chair of Barangay Suba here.

The village is the site of the Fort Ilocandia Golf and Country Club whose water supply for the upkeep of its 77-hectare golf course comes from the lake.

The FIGCC is a subsidiary of the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino, which is owned and managed by Hong Kong-based investors, Fort Ilocandia Property Holdings and Development Corp.

Padayao said the firm has yet to cease from diverting water from the lake despite repeated notices to do so.

Since early this year, the FIGCC has been drawing water from the lake at least eight hours a day to maintain its golf course.

It has its own deep-well pump located in another village but the facility reportedly broke down. This has forced management to turn to the lake for its water needs.

"Please understand that we also have to protect the golf course. It would be shameful to our golf patrons if we allowed the greens to get burned," Johnny Prieto, FIGCC officer in charge, said.

"This is just temporary. We have promised government authorities that we will cease drawing water from the lake once our pump is fixed," Prieto said.

The PLNP's latest monitor showed the lake's water level at three meters beyond its critical stage. The lake's water, which is seven meters deep, dries up faster during summer.

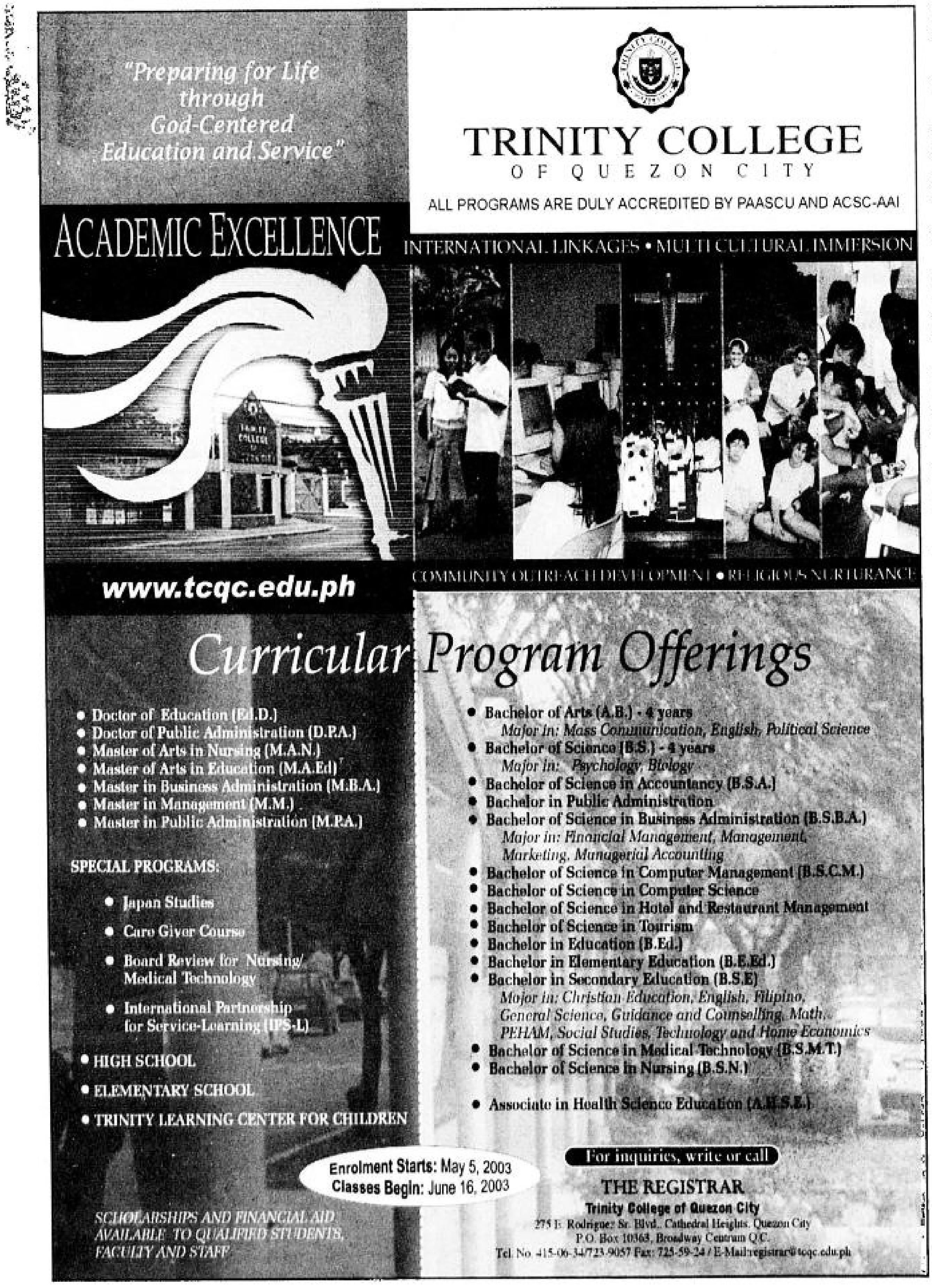
The Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office in San Fernando City, which oversees the park, has instructed the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) "to completely stop the drawing of water until such time a permit (is) issued by the DENR."

Regional Executive Director Victor Ancheta wrote Cenro chief Benjamin Abucay to monitor the FIGCC's compliance with that order in January.

The last time fish kill occurred here was in 1994 because of the unabated withdrawal of water by previous operators of the golf course. Fish varieties turned up dead due to lack of oxygen.

The PNLP was able to stop the drawing of water by the previous firm until FIGCC took over and started diverting water again from the lake for its golf course.

Ancheta, through PAMB, had since proposed a memorandum of agreement governing the FIGCC's withdrawal of water, including the payment of P25,000 a month as water fees. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Soldiers raid Catholic Church compound in Zamboanga Sur

TAMBULIG, Zamboanga del Sur—Tension here rose to a new height after eight Army troops raided the formation house of the Catholic Church here around 3 a.m. Thursday.

At least 30 parishioners were sleeping in the formation when the raid was conducted.

Martina Pahayahay, one of those who slept at the formation house, said the raiding team told them they were searching for firearms and armed men. She said they scrutinized their personal belongings.

Pahayahay said she was awakened by noise and was surprised to see soldiers inside the formation house. She said she was puzzled about how the soldiers managed to get in when the doors were locked.

Genondino Abong, president of the Parish Pastoral Council, said the soldiers did not bother to ask them to open the doors and entered the seminar house "in a forcible manner."

Pahayahay said one of the raiders asked her why she slept in the formation house. Shivering in fear, she was only able to say: "we are all civilians here sir."

Fr. Dexter Zamoras, parish priest, said those sleeping at the seminar house were lay participants in the Novena rites done on the eve of the town's fiesta, which was observed last Thursday.

Zamoras said the soldiers were members of the Bravo Company of the Army's 5th Infantry Battalion.

But the priest decried the lack of warrant for the raid. He said the soldiers also did not coordinate with the local police.

Zamoras said a Sgt. Abarquez told him the raid stemmed from an order to secure the church compound following a reported bomb threat.

"Why should they stealthily enter the formation house if that was their real purpose?" an angry Zamoras blurted out. He said the raid was sacrilegious.

When Zamoras and Catholic lay leaders told the prelate of the Pagadian City Diocese about the incident, Bishop Zacarias Jimenez was reportedly mad.

"*Sobra na ni!* (This is too much)," Jimenez reportedly said in reaction to the raid.

The prelate came here as a major celebrant of an early morning concelebrated Mass in honor of the town's patron, San Isidro Labrador.

Zamoras said what surprised him more was that the military's top commander in the area was not aware of the raid.

He said Lt. Col. Eduardo Tardio, commander of the 5th IB, went to see him on Friday afternoon and apologized for the incident.

Zamoras suspected that the raid was related to his group's effort to oust Mayor Eduardo Balaod and the recent pronouncement made by the New People's Army that they were preparing to put the mayor on trial before a "people's court" for "crimes against the masses."

Zamoras is a prime mover of the Oust Balaod Movement.

"I hope the raid is not in complicity with Mayor Balaod, because at face value, by the way it is conducted, there is reason to believe that it is," he said.

He said the parish leadership is looking into this possibility, because "honestly, we feel harassed." *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Flash flood hits North Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—Rampaging floodwaters swept at least 30 houses in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato on Friday evening after heavy rains caused a major tributary there to swell.

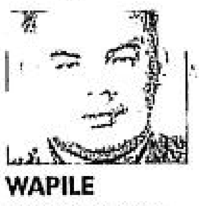
Local officials said nobody was hurt during the incident even as some residents were already asleep. Officials said those who were sleeping when the waters swept their houses managed to swim to safer grounds but many farm animals were not as lucky.

Town Councilor Bencio Toledo said the water started to rise in Balogo and Kapayuran villages around 6 p.m. Friday after a daylong downpour. "People were surprised to see water coming into their homes, an event that last occurred in 1976 in these villages," Toledo said.

Balogo Barangay Chairman Noel Igalan blamed the Department of Public Works and Highways for the flood. He said DPWH had constructed an alternate bridge when it was repairing the original bridge that connects the town with neighboring municipalities.

"The new bridge has long been completed but the DPWH left the detour bridge unattended. Woods, garbage and other debris clogged up under the alternate bridge, causing the water to seek (new) course," Igalan said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 370 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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Guimaras uses mango quarantine methods vs SARS

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—If Guimaras has successfully implemented quarantine measures for its mangoes in the last ten years, there's no reason why it couldn't in the event of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

The island province of Guimaras, 15 minutes by a motorized banca ride from here, has recently put in place systematic quarantine and surveillance measures for possible carriers and victims of the SARS virus. The province has set up screening centers at its wharves and resorts fringing the island on a look out for *balikbayan*, overseas Filipino workers and tourists who may have been infected with the SARS virus.

The anti-SARS measures have drawn lessons from a successful ten-year quarantine of Guimaras mangoes from dreaded pests such as the seed and pulp weevil, which are both quarantine pests in the United States. For ten years, mangoes from other places were banned from entering Guimaras. The island's mangoes are now shipped to the United States last year after it was certified by the US Department of Agriculture as free of pulp and seed.

"Our ten-year experience in quarantine against mango pests is our strength. If we can do it to protect our mangoes, we can also do it to protect the health of our people," said Dr. Samuel Gumarin, provincial health officer of Guimaras.

Surveillance centers

The anti-SARS surveillance centers were set up alongside the mango quarantine teams stationed at the three major and two smaller wharves in Guimaras. When tourists or OFWs arrive at Jordan or Buenavista wharf, they have to fill up a form detailing, among others, their occupation, their place of origin, date of departure and their destination. If they show symptoms of SARS, they would be evaluated by the local health officers who may decide to bring them to the Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City.

Tourists arriving in 15 resorts in Guimaras are also asked to fill up the information sheet. If one manifests symptoms of SARS, he or she would be confined to a room or cottage until a doctor arrives.

Gumarin said the anti-SARS plan would mobilize 600 Barangay Health Workers, five municipal doctors, five nurses and 40 midwives, not counting the barangay officials and peace and order volunteers.

Guimaras Gov. Rahman Nava, a medical practitioner, has been behind the anti-SARS plan, said Gumarin.

The anti-SARS measures have been praised by Dr. Jessie Glen Alonsabe, epidemiologist at the Center for Health and Development of the Department of Health here.

"These measures could be effective responses to protect the people from possible infection," said Alonsabe.

At least ten percent of Guimaras' population of 144,000 are OFWs working in Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Canada.

Gumarin said there is no single case of OFW suspected of having SARS yet.

Arrivals

In Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental Gov. George P. Arnaiz has asked local officials of one city and three towns in the province to monitor the 26 Filipinos and foreigners who arrived in their locality as a precaution against the spread of SARS.

Arnaiz made the appeal after he was alerted of the arrival of these *balikbayan* and tourists from Singapore, Canada and Hong Kong, three of the countries badly affected by SARS.

Arnaiz on Wednesday wrote to Mayors Agustin Perdices of Dumaguete City, Cesar Macalua of Guihulngan town, Rodrigo Alano of Dauin town and Lourdes Adanza of Zamboanguita town, asking them to monitor the movement of the 26 who were staying in their localities.

According to the Negros Oriental International Passenger List from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, five of the 26 were Filipinos while nine were Americans.

The rest were Japanese, Canadians, Swiss, Germans and Dutch.

They arrived here on different dates this month either directly or had passed by Canada, Hong Kong or Singapore.

The Department of Interior and Local Government had alerted the local officials on the return of these *balikbayan* and tourists so their movement would be monitored to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

Panic

The killer pneumonia continues to scare local folk in areas where Filipinos are coming home from SARS-affected countries.

Panic gripped Butuan City on Monday evening after text messages went around that a US-based Filipina nurse who arrived here on Friday last week was rushed to the hospital because of high fever and breathing difficulties.

Residents panicked even more after learning that the 45-year-old nurse had been isolated.

But Dr. Flordeliz Llesis of the regional health office said the case of the nurse, who works in the Oncology department of a Los Angeles hospital, was not SARS-related.

The patient, a native of Butuan, arrived on May 9, the same day she enplaned from California via the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

She reportedly came home to attend the city fiesta tomorrow.

Scare in Bicol

In Guinobatan, Albay, health authorities looked into the case of a 72-year-old woman, who arrived here from Japan on May 5, and was brought to a private hospital, allegedly having SARS symptoms.

Dr. Joanna Limos, Guinobatan municipal health officer, said the woman was brought to the Josefina Belmonte Duran Hospital (JBDH) in Ligao City.

JBDH chief nurse Melba Alano said the woman complained of coughs, but did not have fever, one of the symptoms of SARS aside from coughing.

But after learning that the patient had a travel history, she was referred to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), one of the two hospitals in Bicol authorized to admit possible SARS patients.

But Limos said they learned that the woman did not have herself checked at the BRTTH and instead proceeded to a private clinic for an X-ray.

Limos also stressed that they were waiting for the X-ray result to confirm if it was indeed a SARS case. *With reports from Romy G. Amarado and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Joyce Mejillano and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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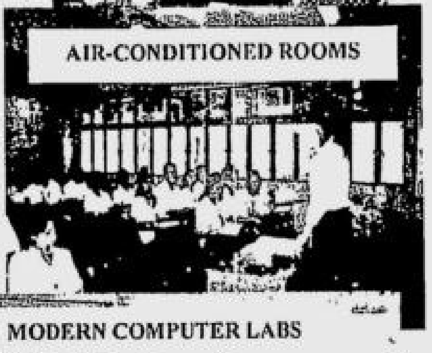
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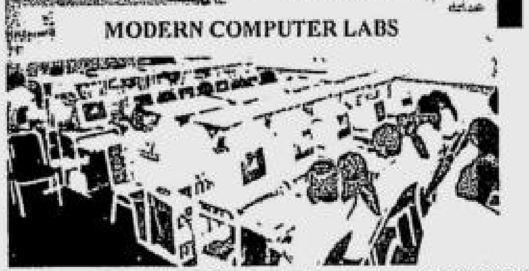
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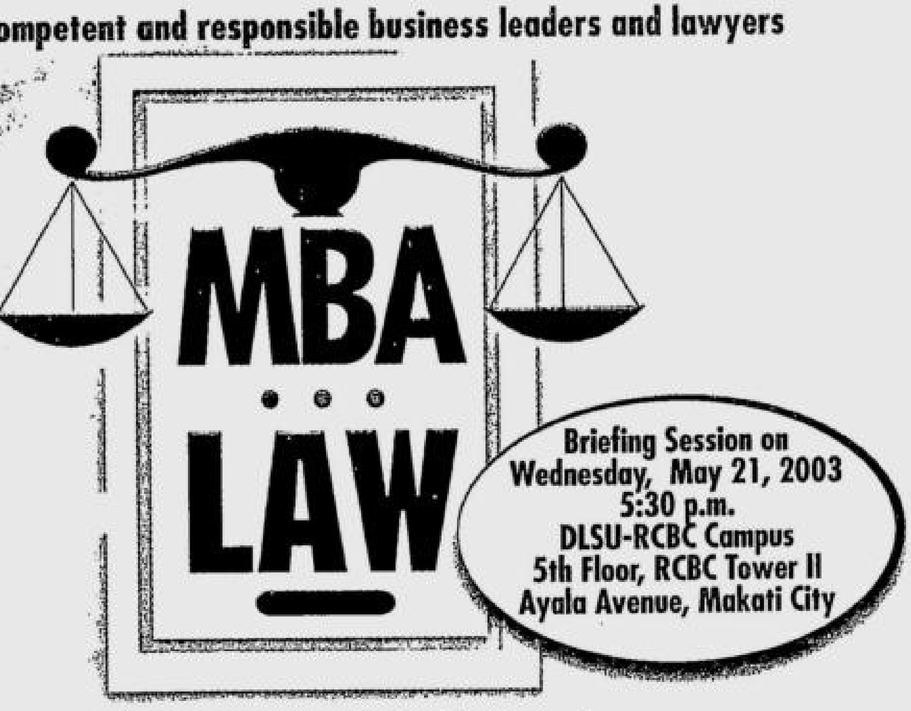

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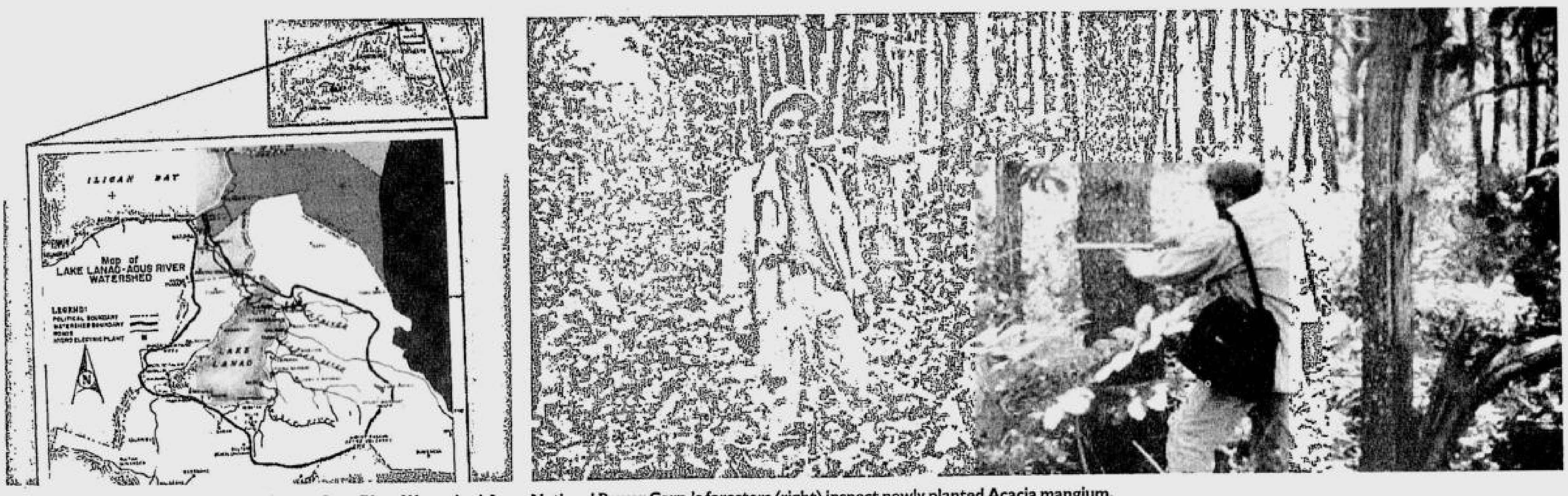

MAP of Lanao del Sur showing Lake Lanao-Agus River Watershed Area; National Power Corp.'s foresters (right) inspect newly planted Acacia mangium.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NPC MINDANAO REGIONAL CENTER'S WATERSHED PROJECT DIVISION

A new forest in Lanao watershed

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City

IF GERMANY had condoned P82 million of the total Philippine debt of P317 million in a debt-for-nature swap for Quirino province's RP-German Forestry Project Quirino, the people in Lanao are reaping the rewards of their concerted efforts in reforestation that began in earnest in 1996.

Picture the scenario back in 1992 when the people suffered from drought when the desecrated mountains could no longer sustain the forest ecosystem, especially its basin-like storage for water called watershed. Rivers, streams and wells had dried up. Apart from this and because of the lake's critical water level, frequent brownouts hit the towns and cities of Lanao, prompting the people to act.

The story of how the National Power Corp.'s (Napocor) Mindanao Regional Center-Watershed Management Division (MRC-WMD), with the support of the local government units, academe and youth groups, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, electric cooperatives, the local business chambers and the military helped reforest the Lake Lanao watershed area has been inspiring.

As lead agency in the reforestation project, the Napocor created the MRC-WMD in 1994. Although still in its infancy, the watershed project is beginning to develop according to its original design.

Napocor forester Kharis Maranda said that aside from the MRC-WMD's use of government-owned land, the use of private land was contracted for the massive reforestation project along the Lake Lanao Watershed Area. It wasn't easy at first to convince a few landowners to allow the use of their land, but after they were told they could harvest the mature trees later for themselves, things began to move.

Pilot area

About 1,000 hectares of land were targeted as pilot area for reforestation. Of the area, 176 ha of cogonal fields and other land parcels have been declared a wildlife sanctuary. Balindong and Marantao towns, located around the lake area, became the focus of reforestation.

Fast-growing trees like gmelina, acacia, mahogany and dipterocarp species for commercial use, such as white and red *lauan*, *almon*, *mangasinoro* and *saplungan*, were planted.

The Napocor-WMD has embarked on the watershed project, especially because five of its hydroelectric plants are along the Lake Lanao-Agus River watershed area.

The eastern side of the Lake Lanao watershed area is still considered virgin forest in contrast to the western side, which has been denuded because of over-logging and abuse of natural resources by residents, Abdul-Jalil Umngan reported on the dipterocarp growth in this part of Mindanao.

With the cooperation of Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines, the MRC-WMD initially planted *Acacia mangium* seedlings in 1,000 ha of upland areas in Marantao and Wato, Lanao del Sur and parts of Marawi City from 1992-96.

Umngan estimated that 13,952 ha of land should be planted to restore the forest cover. This would entail a total cost of P25 million per year or P251 million for 10 years.

Umngan also emphasized that the remaining 47,954 ha of virgin forest and 15,658 ha of mossy forest required protection.

Free seedlings

The MRC-WMD project established two nurseries under the Seedling Dispersal Program around the Napocor power plants, Agus-2 and Agus-5. A total of 197,054 seedlings, especially of the fruit-bearing variety, were distributed to the people for free by end of December last year.

But Maranda said the reforestation project could not be truly successful if there was no information dissemination in the communities. A campaign was thus initiated to bring environmental awareness to the cities of Marawi and Iligan and the towns of the two Lanao provinces.

"Raising their level of environmental awareness for the preservation and protection of our environment is the first step," enthused Maranda.

Film showings and lectures were held and information materials, such as posters and leaflets, were distributed during seminars and campaigns around the cities and towns.

Grade school kids were given special attention to make them aware early on of the need to conserve the environment. High school and college students embarked on field trips to observe first-hand the importance of the reforestation project.

Pulong-pulong (meeting) of farmers and fishermen in Barangay Nangka, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte were held, resulting in the establishment of a multi-purpose cooperative.

A similar cooperative was organized for the Napocor-MWD contractual employees.

Plans have likewise been prepared for a fish hatchery project at the Agus-4 plant and the planting and production of bamboo in the two provinces.

With the ongoing Napocor-WMD project, it won't be long for the people of Lanao to enjoy the benefits of its forests, including a year-round supply of fresh water and protection from flash floods and soil erosion.

Lower the risk of SARS infection. Clear the air of disease-causing germs!

The primary way that SARS appears to spread is by close person-to-person contact. Most cases of SARS have involved people who cared for or lived with someone with SARS, or had direct contact with infectious material (for example, respiratory secretions) from a person who has SARS. Potential ways in which SARS can be spread include touching with skin of other people or objects that are contaminated with the infectious droplets and then touching your eye(s), nose, or mouth. This can happen when someone who is sick with SARS coughs or sneezes droplets onto themselves, other people, or nearby surfaces.

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-Keep yourself at the peak of health.
-Wearing of respirators/masks.

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A thousand years of Butuan

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Butuan City

DURING a cultural program held in Butuan City's Rizal Park and sponsored by the Butuan Arts Council in celebration of the National Arts Month in February, a man who used to work with the government asked me about the city's historical legacy.

Sadly, his question reflects a common trait of local people not knowing their history.

I was tempted to tell him to read a new book soon to be published, "Butuan of a Thousand Years," by prominent history scholar Greg Hontiveros.

Privileged to have read the book even before its publication, I am convinced that the Butuanon (and Agusanon) will finally get a complete and in-depth story of their own history, dispelling the ignorance, confusion and apprehension of their rich colorful past.

Beyond history

For a long time and even until now, the history and role of Butuan in relation to the molding of the country's identity is blurred and got stuck in the First Mass controversy.

This is sad because Butuan's historic legacy goes beyond it, and much, much farther, even eclipsing it in terms of scope and relevance. Ferdinand Magellan's coming was simply a figment, though undeniably an important event in the region's historical tapestry.

There are two things one can learn from the book—the many insights and discoveries of the ancient times before the coming of the Spanish colonizers, and that's 500 years before, and the realization that the history of Butuan is very much linked to the history of Mindanao and even to Southeast Asia and China.

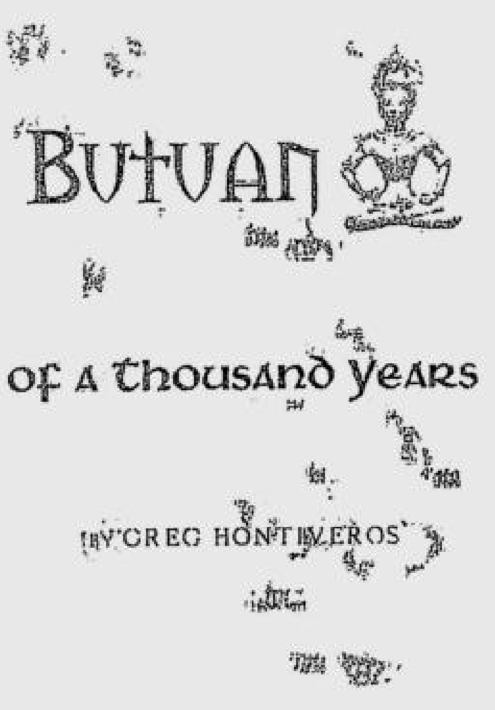
Their cultural, economic and political exchange can never be discounted, and this is doubly interesting.

The book, which took Hontiveros more than three years to research through endless piles of scholarly works and ancient documents, extensively covers the pre-colonial times to the Spanish and early American periods and the Philippine Revolution.

Filipino esteem

Its most astonishing read are Chapters 1 to 6 of pre-colonial Butuan where the spirit and pride of being a Filipino will unravel.

Imagine Butuan as a major trading port from the 9th century to the time of Sri Vijayan Empire (700-1377) and Madjapahit Empire (1292-1478 AD). Fascinating, too, is the knowledge that the first Philippine tribute mission to China came from Butuan in March 1001, 50 years earlier than Manila.



COVER of "Butuan of a Thousand Years" by Greg Hontiveros CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The encounters of names and characters, like Sultan Muhammad Hasan of Brunei who married a native Nutuanon girl Tuanbaloka and whose son Raja Bongsu ruled Sulu in 1612, unveiled the curious truth of the ties between those distant lands. These and more are never-before-heard-of scenes of ancient history, at least not to the generation of American colonial history authors like Blair and Robertson, who taught us otherwise.

The succeeding chapters tackle the long and complex, not to mention bloody, confrontations with the Spanish civil and religious authorities. The conflict extends along and around the ancient Agusan River, from which flowed its religious, political and economic growth and mobility. Again, the curtain of history unveils more characters and situations that sum up, more or less toward the present.

The arrival of "Butuan of a Thousand Years" in the hands and mind of a skillful writer and thinker is as precious as the ancient *balanghai* returning from unknown seas—one that we have been waiting for so long.

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PATALASTAS TUNGKOL SA PAGSUSUBASTA SA ARI-ARIANG DI NATITINAG NA AMOROSO SA BUWIS

By virtue of the provisions of Section 260 & 263 of RA 7160, otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, the undersigned will sell at public auction on May 30, 2003, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. at the main entrance Taxpayer's Lounge, Quezon City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, the real property herein below specified which are hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real estate tax, to satisfy all delinquent real property taxes, penalties, and costs due thereon as of the date of sale.

Alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng Section 260 & 263 ng RA 7160, o ang tinatawag na Local Government Code of 1991 ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publiko sa Mayo 30, 2003, sa ganap na ika-10:00 ng umaga sa main entrance Taxpayer's Lounge, Quezon City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang mabayaran ang amorosong buwis, multa at halaga ng pagsusubasta.

NO.	PI#	LOT	BLK	AREA	LOCATION	KIND	CLASS	T.D. #	DECLARED OWNER	YEAR	AMOUNT	TITLE #
1	01-01871-A	42	4K	*	GALAS	IMP	RES	1887	FRANCISCO BELLA FLORES	1991-03(1)	20,522.34	
2	01-02257-C	31	4-T		GALAS	IMP	RES	1789	SEVERINO VILLANUEVA	1989-03(1)	21,323.40	
3	02-00512-A-10	8	589	*	SANTOL	IMP	RES	1012	JOSE VALEZA	1995-03(1)	11,080.92	CCT#8005
4	02-00512-B-41	8	589	*	SANTOL	IMP	RES	3390	JUAN BIDES	1995-03(1)	15,213.28	CCT#7251
5	02-01517-1001-071	4V11V1-E	PSD	*	SANTOL	CONDO	RES	1227	NEW SAN JOSE BUILDERS	1998-02(1)	12,303.68	
6	02-01521-1001-003	4B11V1-I	PSD	*	SANTOL	CONDO	RES	01895	NEW SAN JOSE BUILDERS	1997-03(1)	18,381.60	
7	04-00689	6	56	481.4	LA LOMA	L&IMP	RES	269/1461	JOSE DAYCO & AURORA	1998-03(1)	46,809.46	
8	08-00535	20	K-18	247.2	KAMUNING	LOT	COM	453	PELAGIO DASCIL	1983-03(1)	160,330.69	
9	09-02206	8	E-118	502	PROJ. 4	L&IMP	RES	328/959	FERNANDO CASTILLO JR.	1981-03(1)	205,559.56	96225
10	09-06596-A	17-B	PSD	*	CENTRAL	IMP	RES	2952	PCT. HOLDERS INC.	1997-03(1)	50,004.12	
11	10-00542	39	LCH211	210	QUIRINO 2B	L&IMP	RES	058/D-087	EMILIO EDRALINO	1995-03(1)	11,734.15	66444
12	10-00837	21	LCH218	202.3	PROJ.2	L&IMP	RES	307/609	EDUVIGES L. MORQUICILLO	1997-03(1)	12,562.84	187410
13	10-01445-7/A	2-H	LCH-317	188.1	AGUHO	L&IMP	RES	316/1151	DOLORES A. ANGELES	1995-03(1)	12,870.29	148383
14	10-01445-7-B	2-H	LCH-317	*	CLARO	IMP	RES	510	FAUSTINO T. TUNGPALAN	1997-03(1)	4,676.58	
15	10-5559-3-G	5-B	PSD	*	QUIRINO	IMP	RES	1339	ROBERT DY SALAS	1996-03(1)	114,480.30	
16	12-00330-C-16	21A&21B	LRC	*	CUBAO	IMP	RES	3185	PURITA FORTUNA	1997-03(1)	71,936.77	
17	12-00709-B	28	23	*	CUBAO	IMP	RES	616	MALOU RIGETS	1992-03(1)	90,494.89	
18	12-00995	19	32	450	CUBAO	L&IMP	RES	410/3876	FLORA SABAL PEÑALES	1994-03(1)	28,734.19	322140
19	13-01440	8	16	600	MURPHY	LOT	COM	369	JOSE DAVID CRUZ JR.	1999-03(1)	196,980.00	257954
20	13-07299-1-A	9	7	*	MURPHY	IMP	COM	88	STA LUCIA REALTY&DEV. CORP.	1989-03(1)	6,961,228.37	
21	14-00114-A	5	6	*	NEW MANILA	IMP	COM	2843	BURGER MACHINE INC.	1994-03(1)	133,225.07	
22	14-04044-16	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	326	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	304,258.05	
23	14-04044-A	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	IMP	SP/CLS	476	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	301,100.35	
24	14-04044-D	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	IMP	SP/CLS	481	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	1,382,725.87	
25	14-04044-M-1	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	311	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	171,836.26	
26	14-04044-M-10	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	320	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1990-03(1)	174,597.58	
27	14-04044-M-11	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	321	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	88,594.82	
28	14-04044-M-12	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	322	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	110,714.27	
29	14-04044-M-13	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	323	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1990-03(1)	2,312,225.03	
30	14-04044-M-14	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	324	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1990-03(1)	681,015.02	
31	14-04044-M-15	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	325	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	161,429.52	
32	14-04044-M-17	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	327	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	568,240.47	
33	14-04044-M-18	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	328	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	437,025.99	
34	14-04044-M-19	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	329	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	119,360.40	
35	14-04044-M-2	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	312	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1988-03(1)	25,418.54	
36	14-04044-M-20	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	330	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	181,881.88	
37	14-04044-M-21	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	331	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	268,753.38	
38	14-04044-M-22	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	332	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	228,783.18	
39	14-04044-M-23	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	333	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	710,693.89	
40	14-04044-M-24	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	334	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	168,393.90	
41	14-04044-M-25	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	335	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1987-03(1)	64,288.47	
42	14-04044-M-26	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	336	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	271,169.68	
43	14-04044-M-27	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	337	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	319,967.19	
44	14-04044-M-28	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	338	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1989-03(1)	73,841.63	
45	14-04044-M-29	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	339	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	70,331.65	
46	14-04044-M-3	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	313	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1988-03(1)	127,302.33	
47	14-04044-M-30	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	340	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1988-03(1)	104,498.62	
48	14-04044-M-31	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	341	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1992-03(1)	1,411,109.25	
49	14-04044-M-32	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	342	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1989-03(1)	137,301.14	
50	14-04044-M-33	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	343	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	54,318.13	
51	14-04044-M-34	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	477	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	277,711.05	
52	14-04044-M-35	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	478	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	98,132.65	
53	14-04044-M-36	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	346	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	1,522,694.43	
54	14-04044-M-37	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	347	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1993-03(1)	71,317.88	
55	14-04044-M-4	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	314	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	242,279.33	
56	14-04044-M-5	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	315	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1990-03(1)	544,483.36	
57	14-04044-M-6	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	316	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	62,677.68	
58	14-04044-M-7	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	317	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1987-03(1)	152,014.68	
59	14-04044-M-8	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	318	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	197,562.27	
60	14-04044-M-9	1B5B3G	22	*	NEW MANILA	MACH.	SP/CLS	319	ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	1991-03(1)	320,660.13	
61	16-00572-M-1	5	7	*	QUADRANGLE	MACH.	COM	2161	PHIL.COMM'L INT'L BANK	1993-03(1)	1,042,065.69	
62	16-01461-1001-115	35	21	*	QUADRANGLE	IMP	COM	1875	FRIDAY ASSOCIATED MKTG. INC.	1999-03(1)	120,676.20	21584
63	16-01461-1001-153	35	21	*	QUADRANGLE	IMP	RES/COM	1913	FRIDAY ASSOCIATED MKTG. INC.	1999-03(1)	190,658.26	
64	16-01461-1001-154	35	21	*	QUADRANGLE	IMP	RES	1914	FRIDAY ASSOCIATED MKTG. INC.	1999-03(1)	62,197.26	
65	20-00669	10	14	499	KALIGAYAHAN	L&IMP	RES	12115	RODRIGO LAURENTE	1995-03(1)	89,119.66	349347
66	20-20964-A	2	249	*	NOVALICHES	IMP	COM	D-080	STA LUCIA REALTY&DEV. CORP.	1993-03(1)	6,484,257.11	
67	21-09349	21	23	472	PAYATAS	L&IMP	RES	686/3655	JOVEN SANTOS	1985-03(1)	49,733.83	257071
68	21-33814-A	12	PCS.	*	CAPITOL	IMP	COM	15251	STA LUCIA REALTY&DEV. CORP.	1995-03(1)	7,145,913.98	
69	21-37460	5	9	96	CAPITOL	L&IMP	RES	10562/10502	LUCIA MARTINEZ LOPEZ	1998-03(1)	9,160.71	133071
70	21-40394-A	6	5	*	CAPITOL	IMP	RES	15241	STA LUCIA REALTY&DEV. CORP.	1999-03(1)	228,032.40	
71	21-41201	2-F	PSD	50.75	CAPITOL	L&IMP	RES/COM	4961/8251	ROBERTO NAVAL	1998-03(1)	22,202.50	167988
72	21-41199-A	2-D	PSD	*	CAPITOL	IMP	RES/COM	8254	ROBERTO NAVAL	2000-03(1)	19,550.57	
73	21-41200-A	2-E	PSD	*	CAPITOL	IMP	RES/COM	8250	ROBERTO NAVAL	2000-03(1)	19,550.55	

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 258 of RA 7160 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, the foregoing statement of delinquencies is a correct transcript of the records of this Office as of May 17, 2003.

Note:

Prospective Bidders on the Public Auction Sale are required to post Cash Bond of Php 5,000.00

(SGD.) VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.
City Treasurer
Quezon City

Dito'y pinatitibayan ko alinsunod sa Seksiyong 258 ng RA 7160, kilala rin bilang The Local Government Code of 1991, na ang mga nauunang paglalahad ng pagkakautang ay wastong salin ng talaan sa Tanggapang ito hanggang Mayo 17, 2003.

Paalala:

Lahat ng magpapalista para sumali sa Subasta ay kailangang maglagak ng Cash Bond sa halagang limang libong piso (Php5,000.00).

(SGD.) VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.
City Treasurer
Quezon City

Virgin coconut oil being tested on SARS patients

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tical companies were not interested in funding research of a natural readily available substance that they cannot protect with a patent and charge exorbitant prices for.

Potent healing food

What makes coconut oil, virgin at that, a potent healing food for an extremely health-challenged world?

In nutritional terms, coconut oils are rich in medium-chain fatty acids (known as MCFA) of vital nutrients and protective antimicrobials lauric and capric acids. These anti-microbial fatty acids are of the same substance found in mother's milk that protects infants from infectious illnesses when their immune systems are yet immature. This is the same rationale that drives pacific islanders to feed their babies with coconut water from young nuts as a natural infant formula.

Even pharmaceutical companies have recognized MCFAs found in abundance in coconut oil to make them a primary ingredient in infant milk formulas.

It is this powerful antimicrobial/antiviral information that the elder Dayrit is tapping in his search for a cure, if not an immune defense against SARS.

4 tablespoons a day

In the ongoing test applications, Dr. Conrado Dayrit's prescription is 4 tablespoonfuls of virgin coconut oil a day "to keep viruses at bay".

Eckard Rempe, founder of The Farm at San Benito in Lipa, Batangas that produces pharmaceutical quality virgin coconut oil in limited quantity, defines virgin quality as raw, pristine, unadulterated and unaltered from the plant food's natural state where "you cannot improve on something the Lord has given."

Coconut oil is at its virgin best when cold-pressed and naturally processed from freshly harvested mature coconut meats at a temperature (below 100° F or 40° C) that retains its natural antioxidant properties in Vitamin E, fatty acids and enzymes and -as with other raw virgin oils—preserves the living energy that sustains health.

The manual process is natural but laborious that only a liter of virgin coconut oil can be produced from 15 to 17 fresh nuts even with mechanized aid. The availability of virgin coconut oil in the domestic market is a challenge as limited quantities are sold selectively in roving organic markets.

The bulk is supplied to pharmaceutical companies in coco butter form. The best way to go is to produce your own virgin coconut oil in the home kitchen. *(See story on this page how to make your own virgin coconut oil).*

On the other hand, Lola Nene's traditional kitchen method applies heat to fast-track the extraction of oil from coconut milk. Despite being no longer classified as virgin, this direct method still produces much better quality natural coconut oil than commercial cooking oil.

Commercial-grade coconut cooking oil is mechanically processed from aged and dried coconut meat (copra) where the oil is extracted at high temperatures and undergoes further refining, in the process losing its enzymes and reducing its MCFA pharmaceutical properties.

First clinical study

In the 1980s, Dayrit's was the first clinical study on coconut oil, which led to the breakthrough discovery that medium-chain fatty acids (MCFA)—specifically lauric, which comprise 53%, and capric—were effective in killing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in lab cultures.

Since the HIV is a lipid-coated virus as the SARS coronavirus, there is a high probability that virgin coconut oil can produce the same effect on the latter.

Unlike the standard drugs that attack human immunodeficiency virus's genetic material, MCFAs in coconut oil simply break the virus apart. Because MCFAs in coconut oil mimic the fatty acids of the virus's coating (called lipid membrane), the antimicrobial MCFAs are readily absorbed by the unsuspecting virus, weakening its protective membrane until it breaks apart, killing the virus. What is significant thus far is that the most drug-resistant superviruses don't develop immunity to a natural mechanism.

Like a virgin

Virgin coconut oil is preferred as medicine over commercial coconut cooking oil because its nutrients and anti-microbial properties are at its most potent state when the oil is raw and unadulterated.

On top of this, coconut oil has the highest source of MCFAs among all palm oils, with antimicrobial lauric acid making up 53 percent of its composition.

Coconut as medicine

Modern medical science is now just beginning to unlock the healing secrets of coconut oil that traditional coconut-eating people have known instinctively.

According to the resource book The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil, coconut oil sponges out petrochemical waste from factories, exhaust, etc. in the body. Natural coconut oil is proven to be a petrochemical filter and can destroy microbes.

Coconut oil has also been found to kill most STD bacteria including some strains of HIV. It inactivates viruses like measles, herpes simplex 1 & 2; bacteria such as e.coli, salmonella, influenza, yeast infections. Fungus like candida, clamidia and eczema can't grow in coconut oil.

Taken in therapeutic amount of 3 1/2 tablespoonfuls (pure or mixed with coconut water or flesh), coconut oil can remove the bacteria which causes ulcers.

Virgin coconut oil has been recognized for its optimum healing properties in Ayurvedic Indian medicine to treat malabsorption for thousands of years.

Use as cooking oil

To a coconut country reeling from the effects of declining exports, David Wolfe, one of America's foremost authority on natural nutrition, comes a surprise booster for a sagging tree of life as he declareds in a recent visit to use coconut oil "only and exclusively" for cooking.

Coconut oil, a completely saturated fat, is found to be the most stable of any known oil at high temperatures up to 170° F (67° C). Meaning, it is the only oil—aside from palm kernel oil—that does not turn rancid at high temperature. Rancid oils create highly toxic trans-fatty acids that suppress the immune system.

Wolfe dismissed claims of saturated fats' link with cholesterol and heart disease as "hostile propaganda" when in reality, "arterial plaque comes from cooked unsaturated fats derived from seeds-like canola, corn, soybean oils & margarine—and foreign cholesterol derived from animal products"—such as beef tallow and pork fat.

He clarified that it is cooked unsaturated fats and oils that are difficult to metabolize, making them inflammatory to the tissues and harmful to the cardiovascular system. Oxygen, heat and light turn normal fats (except coconut and palm kernel oil) into trans-fatty acids that cause degenerative conditions and an increase in cholesterol, and create free radicals linked to cancer and aging.

Instant blood transfusion

On the other hand, fatty acids in raw virgin oils combine with minerals (manganese, selenium), vitamins A, C, E and complex biological compounds as antioxidants in the body to prevent and reverse damage by giving free radicals the electrons they need to become stable.

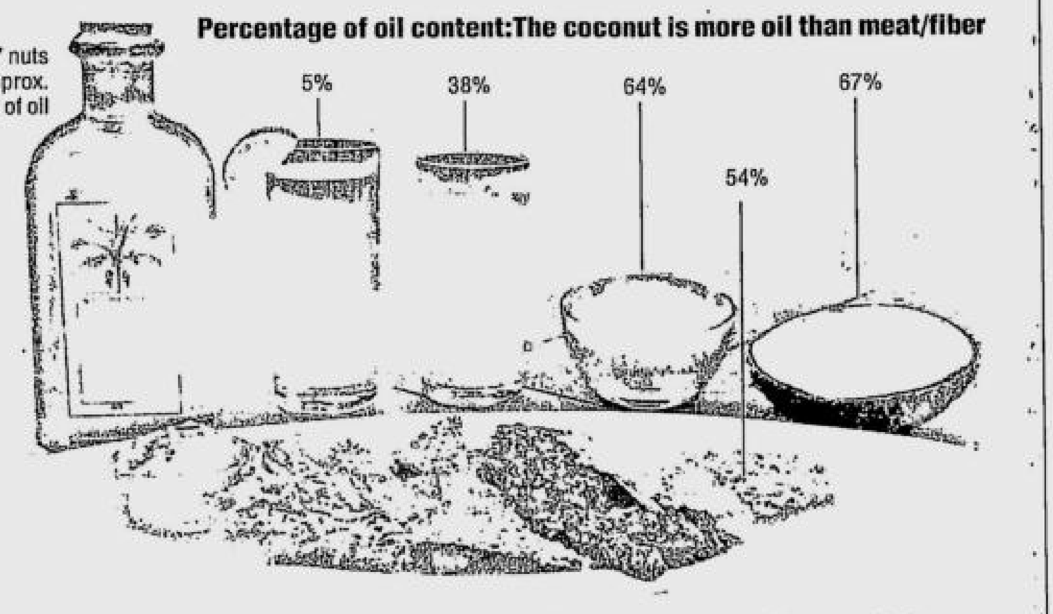
There is more empowering information on the tree of life from Wolfe: Clear coconut water is one of the highest sources of electrolytes found in nature. Young coconut water is identical to human blood plasma, making it the universal donor. Plasma makes up 55 percent of human blood. The remaining 45 percent consist of hemoglobin, which is essentially transformed plant blood, chlorophyll.

This means "when we consume a drink consisting of 55 percent coconut water and 45 percent fresh green-leaf juice we give ourselves an instant blood transfusion."

Soft young coconut meat has the most remarkable ability to restore oxidative tissue damage, and—good news for challenged males—restore sexual fluids. That is equivalent to drinking and eating three or four young coconuts in a day.

San Benito menu

The Farm at San Benito suggests nutritious ways of getting your daily requirements of immune system booster natural coconut oil: virgin coconut oil dressing in green salads; desiccated coconut on pastries; fresh young coconut flesh as dessert or salad; dehydrated (slow heating) shredded coconut crackers as appetizers; coconut noodles and coconut milk (gata) blended in low heat for entrees, and fresh buko juice.


Percentage of oil content:The coconut is more oil than meat/fiber
15-17 nuts = approx. 1 liter of oil
5%
38%
64%
54%
67%

NUTRITIOUS ways of getting your daily requirements of the immune system booster: virgin coconut oil salad dressing; desiccated coconut on pastries; fresh young coconut dessert; dehydrated shredded coconut crackers; coconut milk (gata) for entrees, and fresh buko juice.

Why Filipinos are last to know about wonder food

IF COCONUT oil is a wonder food, how come Filipinos who live in a veritable coconut paradise are the last to know?

Whatever scientific studies on coconuts there are have been drowned out by "Big Business-created anti-saturated fat hype" to push their soybean oil product that was losing out to coconut oil and singled out the latter as containing cholesterol associated with heart disease.

Secondly, lack of research funding has reduced the truths about coconut oil as "indigenous food traits" unsubstantiated by scientific evidence. At the height of the anti-saturated fat campaign, the country could not muster a counter information drive even as the industry was then awash with funds from the coconut levy.

While Dr. Conrado Dayrit's own study in the 1980s operated on private funding by the Philippine Coconut Research Development Foundation of which he was a director, it was hampered by lack of concerted action from the industry, the government and the scientific community.

Thirdly, the indigenous natural process that produces non-hydrogenated, non-refined, non-bleached and non-deodorized virgin coconut oil lost out to commerce. The few precious liters of healthy virgin coconut oil does not have a price in the market to compete with mass-produced cooking oil.

The SARS scare has triggered renewed interest on traditional and indigenous health products. Virgin coconut oil, albeit being a potent healing food in abundance, is just one of many from nature overlooked by the age of technology. It should be deemed as only a part of a total health care picture. Virgin coconut oil should be viewed not as the answer to SARS but as a question of living in sync with nature.

How to make virgin coconut oil

1. Select about 8 mature coconuts. Make sure dehusked shell is intact and has no breakage and that there is water inside the nut. To test, shake it.

2. Split the shell into halves, take out the meat from the shell with a sharp knife, a scraper or shredder *(kudkuran)*. You can have this done in the neighborhood market.

3. Collect the shredded meat together to be cold-pressed into coconut milk. Press the bunch of shredded meat with the coconut water by any means that does not require heat. The first cocomilk called *"kakang gata"* comes out. Strain this "first" milk through a cheese cloth (katsa) to separate the sediments. There are cold-pressing machines available in the bigger wet markets like Marikina, Sta. Ana, Nepa-Q-Mart in Cubao, to cold-press your shredded cocomeat.

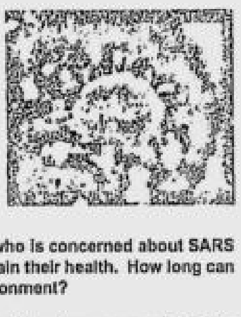
4. Your 8 nuts will make about 4 glasses of coco milk or half a liter. Let the filtered coco milk in the pitcher settle overnight. The coco milk will separate into three parts: 1/3 oil will rise to the top and the shredded meat will settle at the bottom, with coconut water in between.

5. To separate the oil, refrigerate until the oil turns into coconut butter form. Skim the coco butter and separate into another container. Let it stand at room temperature to become virgin coconut oil ready to take. Avoid direct sunlight for the oil to stay clear. Shelf life is good for 90 days.

STOP SARS ATTACK DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

SUNDAY 18 May 2003

CORONAVIRUS OUTSIDE THE BODY



Question I'm a general practioner from Pasay City who is concerned about SARS just like anybody else who wants to maintain their health. How long can the SARS coronavirus survive in the environment?

Answer Studies in research laboratories suggest that the virus may survive in the environment for several days. The length of time that the virus survives depends on a number of factors, which include the type of material or body fluid containing the virus and environmental conditions such as temperature or humidity. Remember that ideal laboratory conditions are different from the condition in the environment which may affect survival of the SARS virus. At present, the US Center for Disease Control and other institutions are designing standardized experiments to measure how long SARS coronavirus can survive in situations that simulate natural environment conditions.

Data on survival of SARS coronavirus outside of the human body emphasize the importance of frequent handwriting with soap and water or use of alcohol-based hand rubs if hands are not visibly dirty

Vaccines against pneumonia and influenza cannot protect you from acquiring SARS. Reports that these vaccines can fight SARS do not have any scientific basis. And since SARS is caused by a new virus, no vaccine has been developed yet.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 16, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	82
total discharged	75
presently admitted (May 15, 2003)	9
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	4

SARS HOTLINES: 741-7048 / 743-1937 or Type MED<space>SARS then send to 2333 for Globe subscribers or 257 for Smart users or text HOTLINE SARS <space> (Message) then send to 2960 or EMAIL: sars@doh.gov.ph

Love, not controversy, makes Gracia's book a hit

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The store chain sold 194 copies on the first day—a "big quantity" for a book that had no formal launch in the country, she said.

Mendoza also said inquiries were already being made about Burnham's book even before newspaper headlines announced last week that a Filipino general had supposedly demanded a 50-percent cut of the ransom purportedly paid for the couple's release.

Reservations peaked after the book made the news, with at least 128 people sending text messages or phoning store branches at Arnaiz and the Glorietta, SM Megamall and Alabang Town Center.

Mendoza said a man even made a pre-paid purchase of 12 copies despite the uncertainty of its delivery or price "because the client was afraid he will not get a copy when it is out."

The prices are P395 for a paperback copy and P595, hardbound.

The proceeds of the book, co-authored by Dean Merrill and published by Tyndale House Publishers Inc., will go to the New Tribes Mission, the group that sent the Burnhams to the Philippines for evangelistic work.

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GMA: Bomb terror sites

From page A1

nomic, humanitarian and information fronts.

"This is not simply a war of guns and bullets. This is a strategic war of will and vision," she said. "We shall tighten the noose of military operations, anti-poverty programs and diplomatic initiatives until the threat of terrorism is beaten."

She said Renato de Villa, her adviser on "strategic concerns" and a former defense secretary, would coordinate the "holistic" campaign.

The President and her party left for the United States at 10 last night from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Through her state visit, Ms Macapagal said, she hoped to "bolster our strategic relationship with the United States as well as with our neighbors in the fight against terrorism as we face a new global horizon cast by post-war Iraq."

She said the government would also reach out to the Organization of Islamic Conference, which is monitoring the peace process in Mindanao, "to press our principled stand against a common enemy while seeking consensus for the security and welfare of Muslim Filipinos."

She also said that despite her order for greater offensives, the government would still "nurture the seeds of a principled, secure and enduring peace" in Mindanao.

'Pagyayabang'

Kabalu said "the real purpose" of the President's order was "for the government to get more support funds from the United States."

"You see, the order was issued on the eve of her visit to the US," he said. "It's a simple form of *pagyayabang* (boasting) so she can convince [US President George W.] Bush to give more money. She could tell him, 'Look, our resources against terrorism are depleted.'"

Kabalu said Ms Macapagal did not name the MILF "because she knows that the word 'terrorists' would be more sellable to the Bush administration."

He said there was "nothing new" in the order: "That is not new to us ... not in Mindanao. With or without the order, military operations have been going on."

Kabalu also said the Macapagal administration had long thought of more action against the MILF by deploying more troops to Mindanao.

He cited the arrival in Cotabato City of troops from the Visayas. The additional soldiers, he said, would "surely be deployed to the Lanao areas, including Iligan City."

The military in Cotabato City confirmed the deployment of more troops to Central Mindanao from Bacolod City.

Lt. Col. Rolando Picar, head of the 500-member Army contingent, said their mission was to help stabilize law and order in the region.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Maguindanao-based 6th Infantry Division, said the military had to act against continuing MILF atrocities.

For example, he said, clashes broke out anew Friday in Midsayap, North Cotabato, and in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, resulting in the death of at least three rebels.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said a reinforcement battalion arrived from Dumaguete City on Thursday to beef up the number of soldiers pursuing MILF guerrillas in Lanao del Norte.

Balaoing said more soldiers were coming in the next few days.

Lanao del Norte has been the site of fierce battles between soldiers and rebels since the Aug. 24 attack in Maigo town that killed at least 16 civilians.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pinol said the President's order was "long overdue."

"A lot of people are crying out for justice," he said. "We cannot allow this group to kill civilians and get away in the name of peace. They cannot hide behind the peace process."

When told about the President's order for selective assaults, South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes said: "Where?"

She added: "We don't want it but we have no choice. We just have to brace ourselves and watch out for retaliatory attacks."

But Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said past wars against the MILF had not decimated the rebel group but resulted in the death of civilians.

"Well, she is the President of the republic. If her wisdom is to kill more people, let it be. Whether she will follow the line of the peace warriors or of the hawks in the Cabinet, that's her choice," Macarambon said, wryly adding in Filipino:

"I hope her conscience lets her sleep."

Backlash on civilians

Acknowledging the backlash on civilians, the President said government relief agencies were on alert for a surge in the number of evacuees from the conflict areas.

She said local government units in these areas had been informed and warned of "reprisals."

She promised regular information briefings on the "tactical and humanitarian situation," to be handled by military division commanders and regional directors of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Peace advocates were surprised and saddened by the President's announcement.

"That is sad," said Fr. Robert Layson, parish priest of Pikit, North Cotabato. "The [order] will result in an escalation of violence. It is not going to help the already violent situation in Mindanao."

"I was surprised, I was surprised," Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said. *With reports from Charlie C. Senase, Edwin O. Fernandez, Joselle R. Badilla, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Grace C. Albasin and Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Last 2 . . .

From page A1

of the Abu Sayyaf there. Instead, the soldiers found the two hostages.

6 hostages in all

Montulo and Bendijo were among six Jehovah's Witnesses abducted by the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo last August while they were selling cosmetics and food supplements.

The two men in the group—Lemuel Montulo and Lionel Mantic—were beheaded by the bandits on Aug. 23 and 24; the two other women—Emily Mantic (Lionel's wife) and Cleofe Montulo (Florida's sister-in-law)—managed to escape on April 19 during a rebel firefight with the military.

Bendijo and Montulo said the Abu Sayyaf had not mistreated them but had tried to convert them to Islam. They were unaware that their two male companions had been killed until an Abu Sayyaf member told them so.

When their two friends escaped last month, the Abu Sayyaf became more strict and started tying them up and threatening that if one escaped, the other would be killed.

"They threatened us that if one of us would escape, the remaining one would be killed. So we decided to escape together," Bendijo told The Associated Press by telephone.

The two women were not bound tightly, and managed to slip away.

The kidnappers had been negotiating a P500,000 ransom for each of the hostages who had grown doubtful they would be freed.

In Zamboanga City, the families of the hostages welcomed news of their escape.

"Thanks to Jehovah, now we can sleep tightly and with smiles," Dionie Montulo, eldest brother of Florida told the INQUIRER.

Father died

Bendijo's mother, Claudia Ausad, 60, said she would have been happier had her daughter managed to come home earlier.

"Her father died waiting for her to come home," she said.

Bendijo's father, Jinno, 65, had died of heart failure on April 24.

Emily Mantic, who escaped from the Abu Sayyaf last month, said she was happy that Montulo and Bendijo's ordeal from the Abu Sayyaf group of Radulan Sahiron was over.

"It was so hard back there. I'm happy they finally got out," she said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the hostages would no longer be brought to Zamboanga because the hostages were "very concerned of their security since some Abu Sayyaf members are tailing them."

Kyamko said the military would now be able to move more freely against the Abu Sayyaf.

"Now we can use our big guns in pursuing them. Before, we can't use our big guns because they had hostages with them; we had to be selective," said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the military's chief public information officer.

The Abu Sayyaf had also kidnapped four Indonesian tugboat crewmen in Jolo last June—three escaped separately, one died in captivity.

The three escaped hostages, Mantic and Cleofe Montulo and one of the Indonesians, later told military officials that two Indonesian instructors gave Abu Sayyaf recruits training in explosives and combat, according to confidential reports on the debriefings.

One of the women had said she overheard the Abu Sayyaf rebels threatening to attack American troops who would be deployed in Jolo to train and arm Filipino troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf, the military debriefing report said. *Reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio; AP; AFP*

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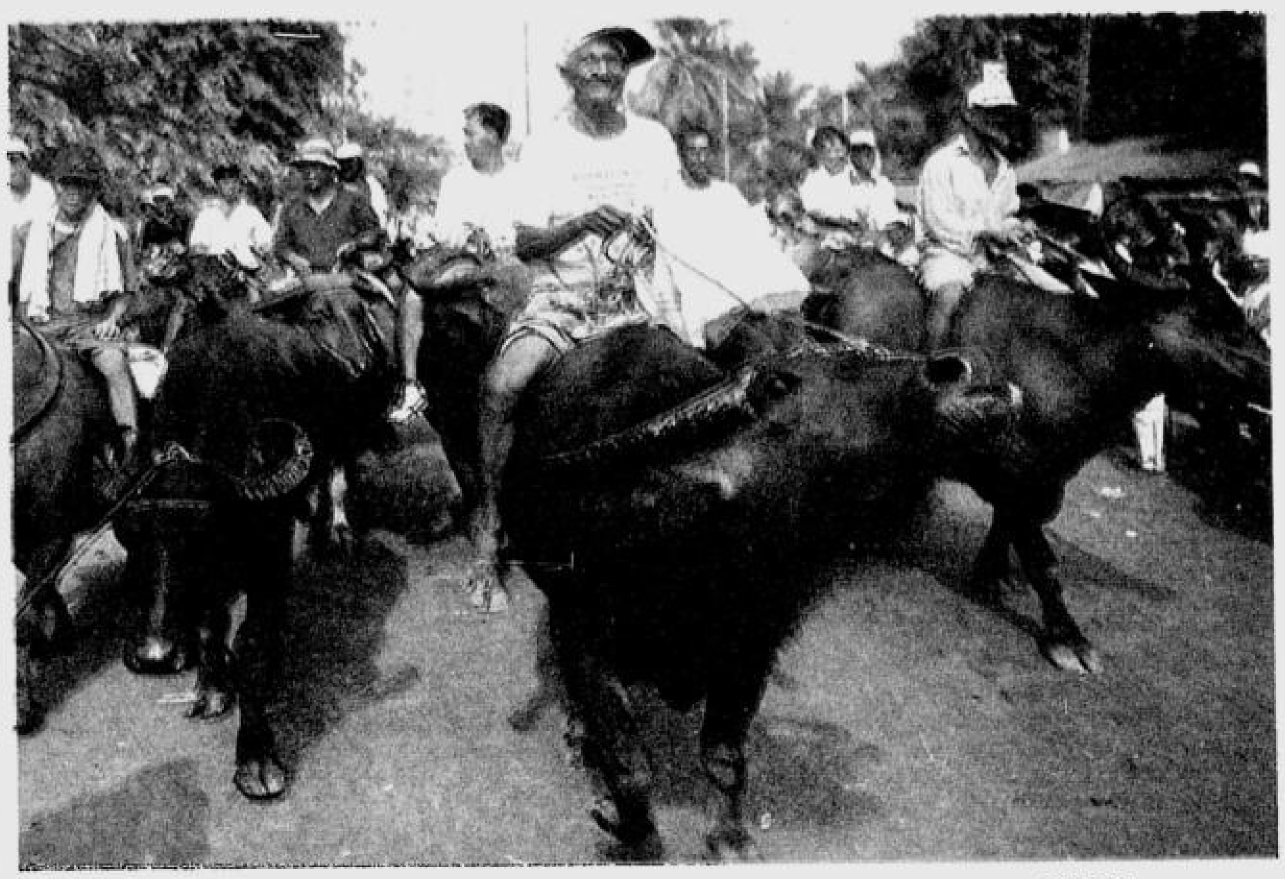
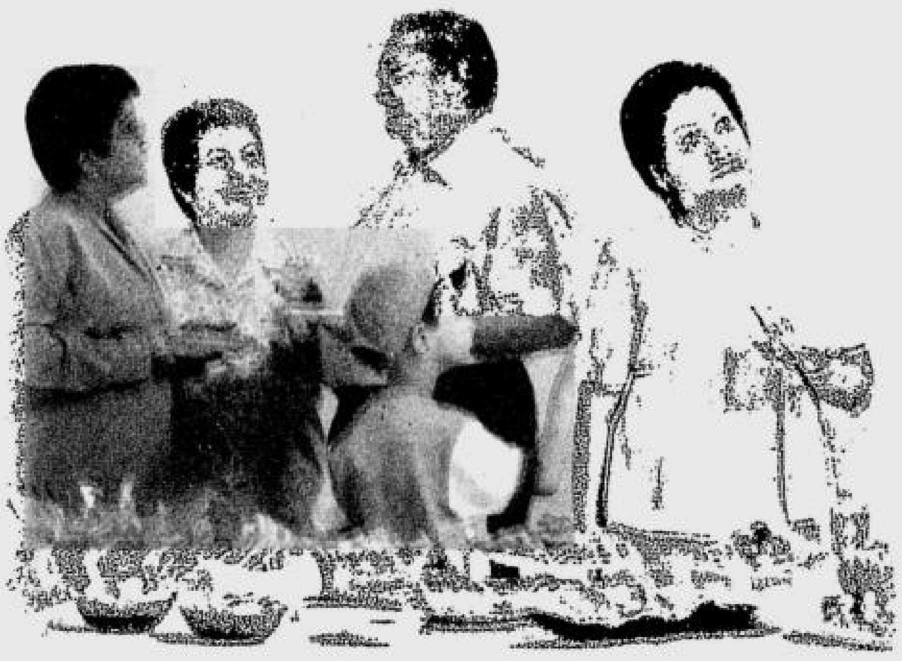


ON ITS knees, carabao (at left) pays homage to San Isidro Labrador, the farmers' patron saint. (Above) Declining number of carabaos participate in the annual Carabao festival in Pulilan, Bulacan, as more farmers use mechanized methods to maximize the yield of their land. But tourism officials and the local government are promoting fiestas in a big way to enrich economic activity.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

One out of 4 senior citizens is malnourished.[1]



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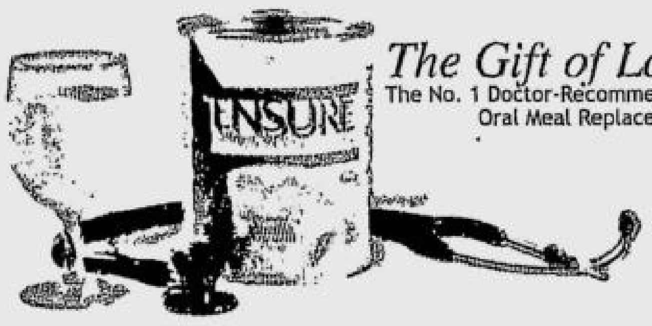

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References: [1]Based on a US Study: Cope, Kathy, "Malnutrition in the Elderly: A National Crisis," Region X, U.S. Administration on Ageing. [2]Nutrition Screening Initiative, 1993

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Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

How is Lolo? How is Lola?

1st of 5 parts

When asked about Lolo and Lola, Filipinos talk about their seniors with much fondness, not realizing that they could be demonstrating signs of a problem that is difficult to notice -- malnutrition.

What is Malnutrition?

Malnutrition is defined as any nutritional disorder caused by insufficient, unbalanced, or excessive diet, or by the impaired absorption or assimilation of nutrients by the body. Just when you thought malnutrition was a condition diagnosed in children, now even senior citizens can be quietly suffering from it.

In the United States alone, 1 out of 4 senior citizens is malnourished. It has been estimated that up to 55% of seniors admitted to hospitals are suffering from malnutrition.

The Causes

Trouble chewing and/or swallowing Poor dental health, an irritated throat or some other medical condition will surely reduce food intake.

Diminished sense of taste and smell Upon reaching the senior years, one's sense of taste and smell begin to deteriorate. Tastebuds dull to salty and sweet so food tastes bland reducing desire to eat. Those who wear dentures may also lose sensitivity to sour and bitter tastes. Food choices become limited, so do preferences.

Physical problems as a result of a disorder or an illness Tremors from conditions such as Parkinson's disease or physical limitations after a stroke make eating difficult.

Emotional state If you observe Amang or Inang to be distant or somewhat depressed, these are natural reactions to the changes taking place (whether it be physical, physiological, emotional or mental). Understand that these feelings affect appetite a great deal.

Dietary Restrictions Your parent who has diabetes or heart problem may have low calorie-protein intake.

Ageing is a process as complicated and as challenging as growing up. The stages can come fast or slow but key to everything is knowing what to expect and how to cope.

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Prevent malnutrition. Consult your physician on effective ways to provide Lola and Lolo better nutrition through Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement.

How to fiesta, Gordon-style

From page A1

just a "one-site, one-event affair," the better to draw big spenders.

The program is dubbed "Fiesta for Progress and Tourism."

For example, Gordon said in an interview last week, a celebrating town could draw up "weekend tour packages" that would take merrymakers to neighboring towns for other places of interest.

An invitation to enjoy only the fiesta may not be that attractive to "a true tourist [who] wants to see and do a lot," he said.

According to Gordon, a fiesta can serve as a centerpiece around which "multi-destination itineraries" can be arranged: a trip to old churches, historical landmarks or resorts in an adjacent town, a stopover for native craft and local cuisine in another, or maybe even another fiesta just an hour's ride away.

The problem of lodging may be addressed by having the residents open their homes to visitors for the duration of the fiesta weekend, he said. The household members themselves may act as hosts, serving native dishes, and, later, as tour guides when their guests go out for the celebration at the plaza.

This is Gordon's vision of the "home stay" component of the newly launched DOT program.

"We want people to say, 'Come over, enjoy our traditions, and you can stay at Aling Ninay's house where there are three bedrooms. They may not be air-conditioned but they have mosquito nets, and you will be served *lechon*,'" Gordon said.

He said the whole concept should dispel the notion that fiestas were but wasteful spending binges on the part of the host community, where some residents were known to sink deep in debt to put up a feast.

"Usually, at the end of the fiesta people realize how they have overspent, because as host all they did was offer things for free," he said. "We are suggesting that instead of being like that, they should earn money from a fiesta."

Tourism consciousness

Fiestas without tourism consciousness also tend to limit economic activity within the community, Gordon said, adding:

"It's mostly the residents' own cash going around, without new money flowing in."

In Pulilan, which the INQUIRER visited last Wednesday for its famous Carabao Festival, this consciousness is beginning to show.

In line with the DOT program, the municipal government aggressively promoted the event and for the first time produced glossy brochures on Pulilan's charms.

The brochures point visitors not only to the Carabao Festival but also to a "Butterfly Haven," a number of old Spanish houses preserved and displayed for a fee, restaurants and "man-made" resorts.

The town also hosted the first Bulacan Arts Festival—a project sponsored by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts—as a side attraction to the fiesta.

"Make a community aware that it has a rich culture to promote, and I think tourism will easily follow," said NCCA official Ferdinand Isleta, who oversaw the arts festival.

Participating artists were tapped to help paint and decorate the carabaos and carts for the parade, said Armand Sta. Ana of the Bulacan Arts, Culture and Tourism Center.

Sta. Ana said the organizers were now trying to give back to the festival its original rural flavor and make it "less commercialized.".

He noted that in the past, "even the carabaos were made to bear the logos of the corporate sponsor," turning the parade into a long advertising run instead of a tribute to San Isidro Labrador, patron saint of farmers.

Vice Mayor Vicente Esguerra, whom the INQUIRER caught up with at the carabaos' assembly area, said the fiesta had also seen a decline in the number of beasts taking part in the parade.

He said only about 200 carabaos could be gathered now, from up to 700 in the 1970s, "mainly because more and more farmers are now employing modern methods and are keeping carabaos mostly for the fresh milk and for transport from farm to road."

Even the few remaining carabao owners in Bulacan seem to be losing interest in the festival, which is why the local government thought of offering such treats as free groceries, T-shirts and caps, Esguerra said.

Bigger government role

Councilor Maritz Montejo, chair of the Pulilan council's tourism committee, said past festivities were usually organized almost entirely by the *hermana mayor* or major private sponsor.

But this year, the local government took on a bigger role in promoting the fiesta and managing its overall conduct, including critical details like traffic management and parking.

Some roads were closed in accordance with a traffic-rerouting scheme and partly to "encourage people to walk, buy our goods and interact with the residents," Montejo said.

The result: one of the biggest, well-attended presentations of the carabao parade in recent years, almost two hours long, with more than 200 carabaos, floats and carts taking part.

"Our parade is so successful that even the blind are watching," the wise-cracking emcee said in Filipino from his stand by the roadside.

Walter Barry, a tourist from Florida and husband of a Filipino, burst into laughter—"I like that, I like that!"—after having the one-liner translated by a tour guide.

"This is tremendous community spirit," said Barry, who likened what he was watching to a docile version of the bull run in Spain and a "Mardi Gras minus the wild antics."

Watching the carabaos kneel in front of the San Isidro church, he said, beaming: "I've never seen anything like it."

Work needed

But Barry and about a dozen tourists in his group were the only foreigners seen at the festival—a telling indication of how much work is needed for a Filipino fiesta to land on the world's tourism map.

Gordon said that for all their uniqueness and potential, fiestas were hardly being promoted by travel agencies.

He said the "Fiesta Islands Philippines" campaign during the Ramos administration was "limited" in scope, based as it was on a one-event, one-locality principle.

"I think only the Ati-Atihan [of Kalibo, Aklan] got to attract a consistent expatriate market," he recalled.

"But now," he said, "we are adding value to these traditionally once-a-year, stand-alone activities by offering options beyond the fiesta and spreading revenue opportunities to nearby destinations."

3 bishops want Senate to stop Charter change

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Three bishops of Negros Occidental have called on the Senate to reject the call of the House of Representatives to convene a Constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Bishops Vicente Navarra of Bacolod, Patricio Buzon of Kabankalan and Jose Advincula Jr. of San Carlos agreed that to amend the Charter through a Constitutional Assembly would only serve the vested interests of a few.

"We should not allow these congressmen to push for a Constituent Assembly that we fear will serve their own selfish interest and greed," he said.

"The people should write letters to their congressmen and senators to express their sentiments against the Constituent Assembly and pray that it will not take place," he said.

Navarra said he wrote to some of the congressmen in Negros Occidental and planned to write to more officials to express his sentiments.

Advincula, for his part, pointed out that the proposal to change the Constitution did not come from a majority of Filipinos but "from a few who hold vested interests in power and wealth."

"We must oppose Charter change because it seeks not the good of the Filipino people but the good of a few who would cling to power. We should be wary of major changes which come too fast and examine the motivations of the people who initiate them," he said.

Buzon, for his part, said changing the Constitution was uncalled for at this time.

A civil society group in Negros Occidental expressed hope that the senators would listen to those who were opposing amending the Constitution, which were initiated by "persons who had not proven themselves worthy" of their trust.

"The Constitution is too important to the life of our people individually and as a nation to be left to persons who have time and again given priority to their selfish ambitions and interests rather than the welfare of the people," said the Negrenses United Against the Constituent Assembly (Nunca).

Nunca further noted that the House of Representatives, which passed the resolution for a Constituent Assembly as a method to amend the Constitution can be stopped only by the Senate.

"If the Constitution has to be amended, a broad consultation with the people must be conducted so they can intelligently discuss the process by which this will be done as well as the advantages and disadvantages of changing certain provisions," Nunca also said.

Cha-cha? What's that?

From page A1

And of those in the know, only "four out of 10" approve of amending the charter now, the polling firm said yesterday.

The nationwide poll among 1,200 respondents 18 years and above was conducted from March 29 to April 12, 2003.

It has an error margin of +3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

In its recent Ulat ng Bayan, Pulse Asia said the results had 62 percent of the respondents admitting little knowledge of the Charter; 15 percent said they practically know nothing about it.

Only 4 percent said they have "a great deal of knowledge" while 19 percent have "sufficient amount of knowledge" of the Constitution, it added. And of this 23 percent ("a great deal of knowledge plus "sufficient amount of knowledge"), "only four out of ten (39 percent) support moves for amendments at this time."

Another 39 percent opposed amendments at this time but were open to amendments some time in the future. Twenty-one percent oppose "Cha-cha" now or at any other time.

In other words, Pulse Asia said, "only 9 percent" of Filipino adults give "informed support" to charter change at present.

And of those who feel knowledgeable about the Constitution and who say it should be amended now or later, 49 percent prefer holding a Constitutional Convention, just slightly higher than the 45 percent who prefer a Constituent Assembly.

Survey questions

The survey asked the respondents to describe the amount of knowledge they have of the Constitution. Those who said they have at least sufficient knowledge were then asked if they thought the Charter should be amended now or at any other time.

Those who support amendments in the future were then asked what method they preferred to amend the Charter, a Constituent Assembly or a Constitutional Convention.

"On the whole, these figures suggest a dearth of knowledge about the Constitution among Filipinos," Pulse Asia said as it called for a more aggressive information drive to help the public make "wise and informed choices regarding proposed changes to the charter."

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NOTICE

TO ALL EXAMINEES OF THE GSIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM QUALIFYING EXAM

Please be informed that there have been changes in the two testing centers for the conduct of the 19 May 2003 GSIS Scholarship Program Qualifying Exam, to wit:

Former Testing Center	New Testing Center
• PASAY CHUNG HUA ACADEMY Pasay City	MANILA SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL Padre Faura St. corner Taft Ave., Manila (in front of Supreme Court)
• SAN PEDRO COLLEGE Davao City	HOLY CROSS COLLEGE Davao City

Pasay Chung Hua Academy has informed us that they could not accommodate the heavy turnout of examinees. San Pedro College, on the other hand, is presently under renovation.

Kindly go over your GSIS Testing Slips and check if you are affected by these changes to forestall confusion and inconvenience on exam day.

Inquirer—May 16, 17, & 18, 2003

Maganto: Famy raid no mistake

By Leila Salaverria

"MY MEN never made a mistake."

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto defended the members of his task force after Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal criticized them for allegedly mistaking the Laguna residence of Benjamin Bagolbagol as the safehouse of fugitive Rafael Cardeño.

Bagolbagol, a suspected drug dealer, and SP02 Almario Jimenez, a member of Maganto's task force hunting down Cardeño, were killed during the raid in Famy, Laguna.

Maganto denied that his men did not coordinate with the Laguna police before the raid on Bagolbagol's house, as Caringal claimed.

Maganto said he informed the intelligence division of the regional command that his task force would be mounting an operation.

His men also informed the police office in Famy, Laguna about the operation.

"We informed the police (in Laguna) twice—before and after the operation," Maganto said yesterday. "He could check the blotter."

Maganto also yesterday called on Caringal, the police chief of the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) area, to instead help the task force in hunting down Cardeño, who is said to be hiding out in the Cavite and Laguna area, according to police informants.

"Caringal should help us track down Cardeño," Maganto said. "All law enforcement authorities should hunt him down because he is a fugitive from the law."

Maganto said that he trusted his sources when they informed the task force of Bagolbagol's connection with Cardeño.

He said Bagolbagol would not have shot it out with his men had he been innocent.

He also said that the task force may have done Laguna a favor by neutralizing Bagolbagol.

"(Caringal) himself has said that Bagolbagol is a notorious drug dealer," Maganto said. "Why haven't they caught or neutralized him?"

Maganto also disputed Caringal's insinuation that Jimenez may have died in vain.

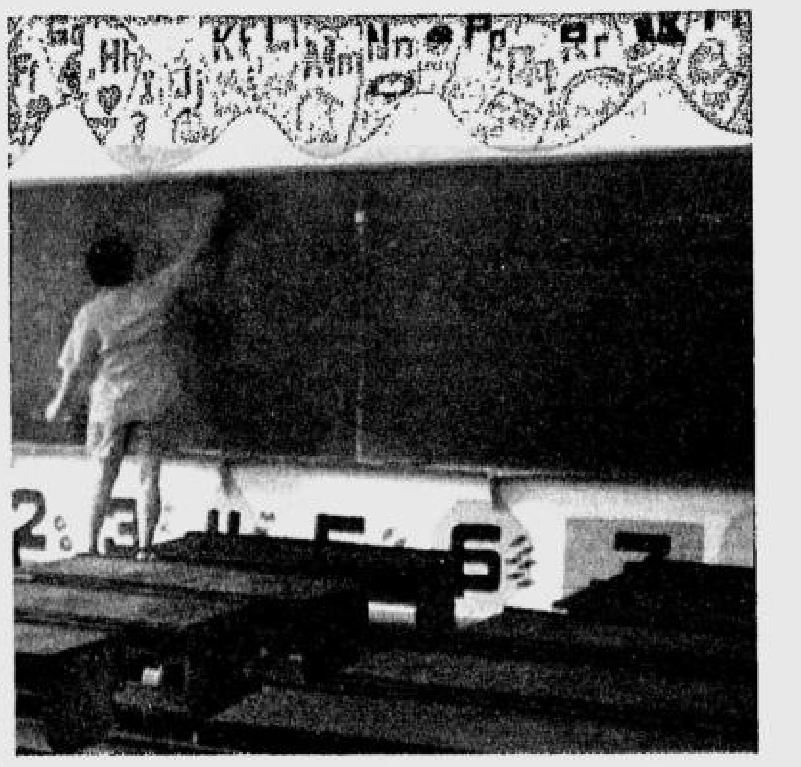
"We are prepared to die just to see that justice is served and so that others may live in peace," Maganto said.

He added that Jimenez's death greatly saddened him, especially since Jimenez had left behind a wife and six young children.

Jimenez has been described as a "model policeman" who had a reputation for being honest and for shunning illegal activities.

Reacting to Cardeño's lawyer Homobono Adaza's statement that he "killed civilians with impunity," Maganto said that Bagolbagol was a notorious drug dealer who fought back when his men raided the house in Famy.

Maganto also stressed that Adaza's client, Cardeño, is wanted for murder.



THIS GRADE school teacher is back to cleaning the boards for the opening of the school year. ROMY HOMILLADA

3 DAGDAG NA DEPENSA LABAN SA SARS

Sa patuloy na paglaganap ng Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome o SARS, isa sa mga matinding ikinakatakot ng sambayanan ang katotohanan na hanggang ngayon ay 'di pa ito nahahanapan ng lunas. Gayunpaman, may siguradong paraan upang maiwasan ang sakit na ito. Ito ay ang patuloy na pagpapalakas ng ating katawan, at higit sa lahat, ng ating resistensiya.

Pagdating sa kalusugan ng mga bata, iba na ang nakasisiguro. Mabuti na lang, may Enervon-C Plus Syrup na sadyang ginawa para tugunan ang kanilang mga pangkalusugang pangangailangan. 'Di lang isa kundi may 3 bitamina – A,B at C -- na tumutulong magbigay ng sapat na proteksyon para mapanatiling malusog at magkaroon ng mas malakas na depensa laban sa SARS.

VITAMIN A: ANTI-INFECTION, ANTI-OXIDANT

Tumutulong ang Vitamin A na palakasin ang kanyang respiratory system at nakabubuti rin ito para sa kanyang balat.

VITAMIN B-COMPLEX: BEST FOR MAINTAINING THE BODY'S METABOLIC CYCLE AT TUMUTULONG SA PAGGAWA NG ANTI-BODIES

Ang Vitamin B-complex ang umaalalay sa kanilang katawan upang patuloy itong magkaroon ng sapat na enerhiya. Ito rin ang tumutulong sa paggawa ng anti-bodies na siyang lumalaban sa mga virus na nagdudulot ng sakit.

VITAMIN C: COMPLETES YOUR HEALTH ARMOR LABAN SA INFECTION

Vitamin C ang pinakamatinding panlaban natin sa infection. Ito ang nagpapalakas ng ating resistensiya. Bukod pa rito, paniguro din ito na ang kanilang mga ngipin, gilagid at buto ay mapapanatiling malusog.

ENERVON-C PLUS SYRUP

May Plus kaya mas malakas!

Manila to ensure a SARS-free school opening

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday directed city and police officials to undertake the necessary preparations to ensure the safety and health of students for the opening of classes next month.

The mayor said he had already met Ma. Louisa Quinones, city school division superintendent, early last week and told her to make sure that the facilities, especially the classrooms, in Manila's 70 public elementary and 32 high schools are ready for the students.

"The classrooms should be clean, well lit and must have proper ventilation for the comfort and convenience of students," Atienza said. "Proper sanitation should also be observed in the canteens and cafeterias."

Quinones reported that early last week, she had directed the administrators of Manila public schools to clean and repaint classrooms and corridors, and replace busted light bulbs.

Atienza said that City Hall wants parents to know that their children would be studying in a comfortable and health-conducive environment.

Several sectors earlier proposed delaying the school opening due to fears that schools may be ill-equipped to deal with the possible outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

The mayor also ordered city police director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong to deploy policemen to patrol school zones, particularly the so-called "university belts" on C.M. Recto and Taft avenues.

"Make sure the students are safe from criminal elements such as holdupmen, pickpockets and snatchers," Atienza told Bulaong.

The mayor said that the best way to protect students is to maintain high police visibility around schools.

Petron plant closed for failing to pay back taxes

By Tina Santos

FOR FAILING to meet Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco's 48-hour deadline to pay back taxes amounting to P10.2 million, the main bulk plant of the Petron Corp. at the Navotas Fish Port Complex has been ordered closed on Friday.

Tiangco's closure order came on the heels of a local Regional Trial Court decision dismissing the oil firm's petition to cancel the Navotas government's tax assessment for lack of merit.

Judge Rosa Reyes of Malabon RTC Branch 74 on Wednesday also rejected Petron's petition for a temporary restraining order to stop the Navotas government from collecting the taxes.

The INQUIRER tried to reach officials of the oil firm for comment, but an information officer of Petron said they have yet to discuss the matter with their lawyers.

Tiangco said he expects the oil firm to appeal the decision of the local court.

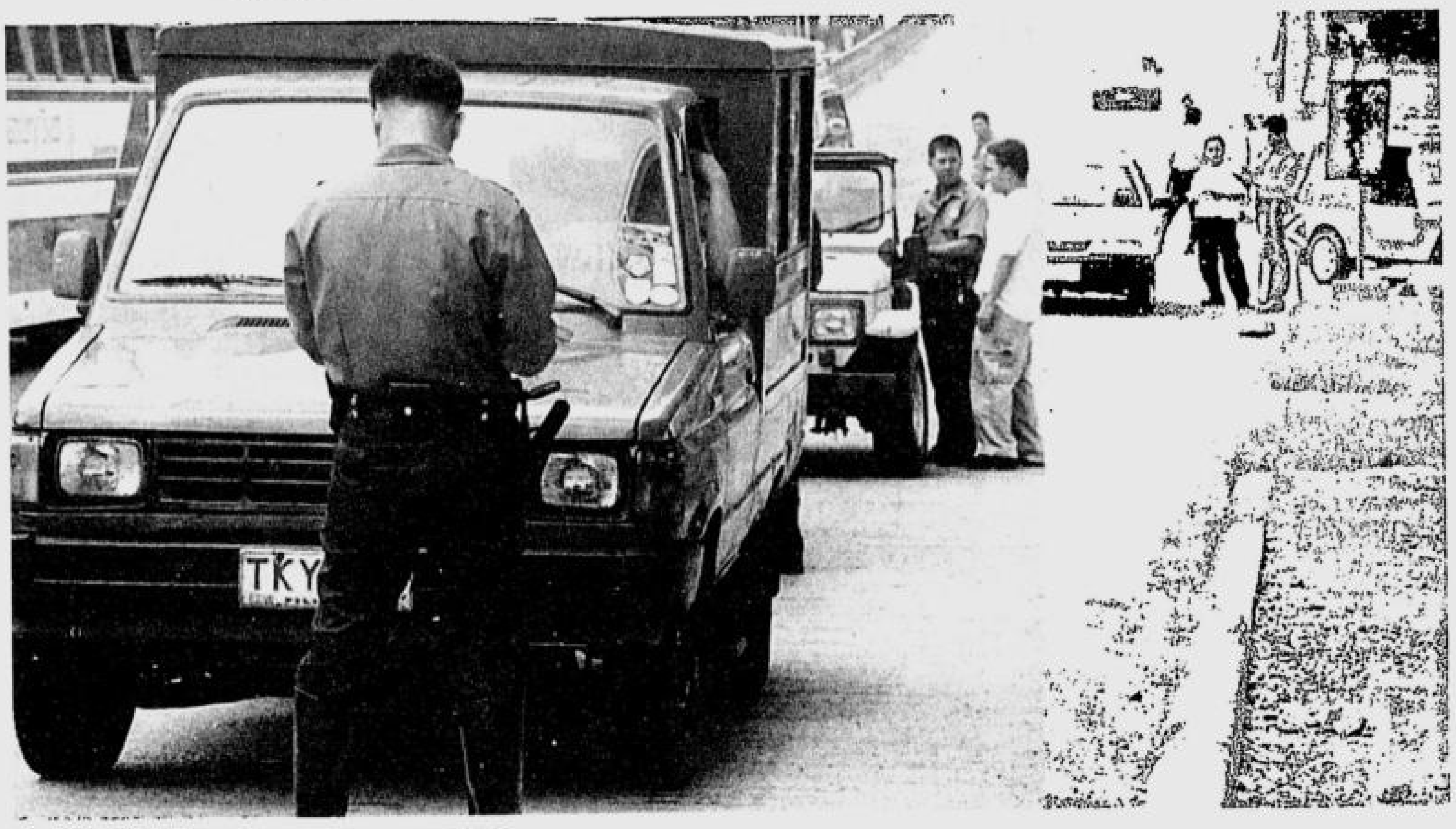
"Certainly (Petron) has the right to appeal, but the court ruling was the first legal judgment rendered in our favor," Tiangco said in a phone interview. "Imagine the huge amount of money the municipal government would have lost had we not asserted our rights."

The mayor added that Petron has appealed to the local government to give it more time to settle its dues.

"We understand their appeal but more than anyone, they are the ones who are supposed to understand the timetable of things," the Navotas mayor said. "We have given them enough time. It's the same as when they announce an oil price increase—we could not tell them to give us, say, a couple of days more before they implement the increase."

The oil depot was padlocked at about 5 p.m. on Friday after Tiangco signed the closure order. Representatives from the town government's Business Permits and Licensing Office served and implemented the order.

Aside from failure to pay the back taxes, Tiangco said he ordered the plant's closure for operating without the proper business permit.



BE ALL YOU CAN BE ON THE STREETS

Traffic enforcers keep the peace in the lanes. Degree-holders on the job-hunt are making a beeline for the MMDA recruitment office, hoping to apply as traffic enforcers. VAL HANDUMON

Don't have a job? Move to Malabon

By Tina Santos

IF YOU find yourself without a job in Metro Manila, better relocate to Malabon where the city council has just passed an ordinance requiring all factory and construction firms operating in the city to give jobs to residents.

Mayor Amado Vicencio yesterday said the city council has already approved Ordinance 03-008 directing businesses to give preference to skilled and nonskilled residents of Malabon.

Vicencio said that the ordinance is meant to protect residents' right to decent jobs, curb rising criminality due to unemployment, and help the youth fight drugs, gambling, prostitution and other vices.

The ordinance, which was based on Section 16 (General Welfare) of the Local Government Code and authored by councilor Arnold Vicencio, directs Malabon factory owners to employ city residents numbering no less than 70 percent of the total workforce.

On the other hand, construction firms are required to take on at least 50 percent unskilled city residents and 30 percent skilled workers.

Business firms caught violating the ordinance will be fined from P1,500 and, P5,000. The fine will be in effect on a continuing monthly basis until the firm owner follows the directive.

The ordinance applies only to contractual or non-regular workers and not covered by any agreement between workers and their employers.

The city ordinance will be implemented by the Business Permits Licensing Office, City Treasurer and Public Employment and Service Office.

No longer a lowly trade, traffic enforcement gains a noble edge

By Luige del Puerto

FOR Leveriza Saguban, a 33-year-old marketing graduate from Iligan City, traffic enforcement is no longer the "lowly job" that attracted only those who couldn't find better employment.

Saguban said that she no longer has qualms about becoming a traffic enforcer after she heard that Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials have implemented changes in the agency.

"It's a noble job," she told the INQUIRER in an interview. "You get to help people go to where they want to go, safe and fast."

Last Friday, Saguban and a dozen or so young men and women trooped to the MMDA headquarters in Guadalupe, Makati City to sign on as traffic enforcers.

Saguban is only one of a thousand or so graduates who have heeded MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando's call to arms.

Fernando earlier announced that he is enlisting young and robust professionals to the traffic agency, promising them a decent living.

That was what clinched it for Saguban, who came to Metro Manila a few years ago to carve a better life. Since she arrived, Saguban said that she has yet to find a lasting job.

The MMDA needs 200 traffic enforcers and 40 paramedics to augment its force. To join, one must be under 30 years old, a college graduate, and stand at least 5-foot-6 for males, and 5-foot-4 for females. Also, one must have a driver's license.

Given the stringent qualifications, the agency is luring young graduates with a basic pay of around P9,000 per month, and up to 15 percent commission on tickets issued to erring motorists.

Vergel de Dios, head of the MMDA's Traffic Operations Center, said the P375 a day that an enforcer gets is sometimes just half of what an enforcer actually earns with the commission system.

Michael Ramat, a 22-year-old mechanical engineering graduate from Ternate, Cavite, was drawn to the perks that goes with the job.

"I worked in a garments factory in Cavite," he said. "I earned only around P7,000. I left because I needed more."

It was worse for Malcolm Padayao, 25, a civil engineering graduate.

He said his starting salary in Bicol is only around P6,000. When he arrived in Metro Manila, he found the going just as tough.

Padayao said he has not found anything "stable" since he arrived.

The recruitment campaign has also attracted criminology graduate Charlito Cahanap, 35.

Cahanap said the police have not posted vacancies. He hopes his background will land him a job this time.

"*Kaya iyon* (I can handle it)," he said of traffic enforcement, a job a newspaper once called a "mental boiling chamber" because enforcers are usually subjected to the heat, pollution and impatient motorists in the streets.

De Dios said economic conditions in the country could prove favorable to its recruitment campaign. Unemployment rate in the Philippines stands at 10.6 percent. In the National Capital Region, the rate as of January this year stands at 16.9 percent.

"*Kung wala ka pang trabaho, mag-*MMDA *ka na lang* (If you don't have a job, join the MMDA)," De Dios said.

But the MMDA will not be lenient on erring enforcers.

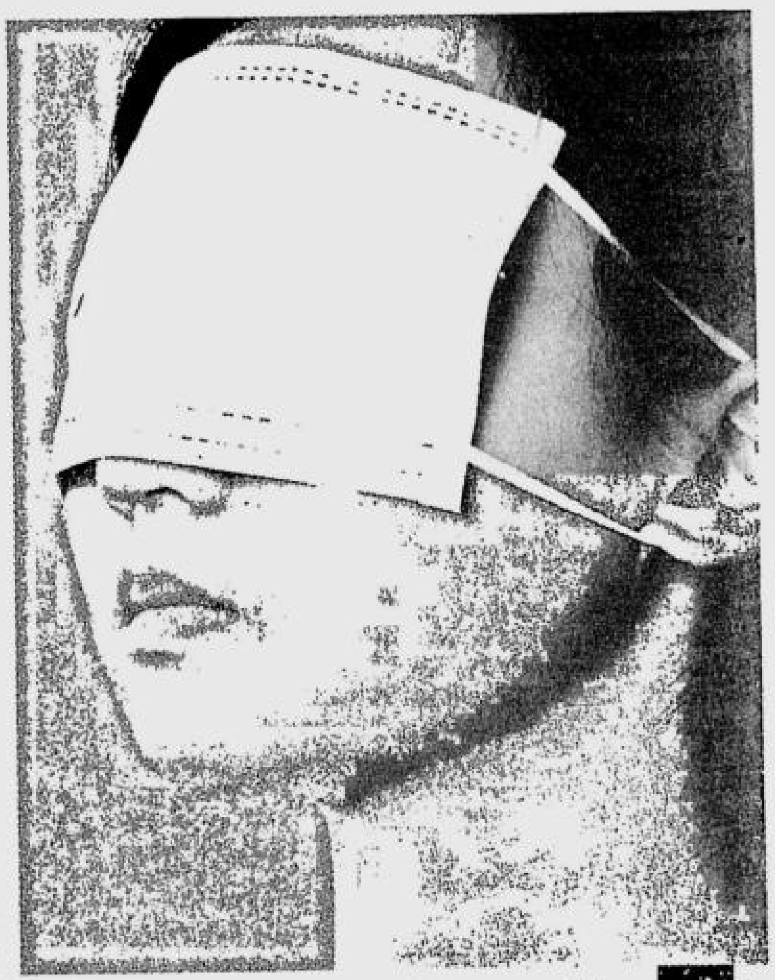
In fact, De Dios said, the recruits would replace 40 traffic enforcers who had been terminated recently for bribery, inefficiency and ticket citation mistakes, among others.

The agency has let go of more than 100 enforcers since Fernando took over as MMDA head.

The agency, De Dios said, is bent on professionalizing its ranks.

De Dios advised applicants to prepare for a qualifying exam. Almost 50 percent of those who take the exam fail, he said.

Those who are interested are advised to apply directly with the Traffic Operations Center at the MMDA headquarters in Mandaluyong City.



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News provided by REUTERS

Caloocan man hacks to death year-old boy; hurts 12 others

By Tina Santos

A BIRTHDAY party turned into a bloodbath on Friday when a 35-year-old man went amok with a butcher's knife, hacking dead a year-old boy and seriously injuring about a dozen others in Caloocan City.

It took six policemen to hold down and subdue suspect Robert Quano, who is said to be mentally ill.

Police said Quano, of Sawata, Maypajo, Caloocan, is also wanted in Masbate for killing his own brother. He arrived in Caloocan four days ago to elude arrest.

With bloodshot eyes and raging temper, Quano slit the throat of Rondel Barba, witnesses told police.

The suspect also stabbed the boy's parents, Rodito and Linda, as well as neighbors Ernesto Ducones, 32, and Ramil Grifiel, 24.

Police said there were others who were injured as Quano attacked anyone who crossed his path, but decided not to file charges.

According to SP02 Antonio Penaranda, Quano went berserk at around 3:30 p.m., shortly after he arrived at a birthday party in Sawata.

Witnesses said Quano suddenly grabbed the year-old boy after taking hold of a butcher's knife, which was used in slicing up a goat at the party.

The terrified parents tried to save their child but when they approached Quano, the suspect sliced the baby's throat, SP02 Penaranda said.

Quano went on and stabbed Rodito and Linda.

Quano then went out on the street and attacked anyone who tried to stop him.

He was finally subdued after authorities and bystanders beat him to submission.

The victims were rushed to the Martinez Memorial Center, where Barba was declared dead.

The other victims were later discharged except for Grifiel who was transferred to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center due to severe injuries.

Quano is now detained at police headquarters while appropriate charges are being readied against him.

Pasay woman kidnapped

BUSINESSWOMAN Baby Tan Ongson yesterday was abducted from her Pasay home by three armed men, according to a police report.

Ongson, 50, owner of Triac Electronics, was in her house in Pasay City when three unidentified men armed with rifles barged in at 10:50 a.m. and dragged her outside at gunpoint.

The suspects then forced Ongson inside her gold Honda CRV (XDR-800) before speeding away.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District director, said the police have not yet received a ransom demand as of yesterday afternoon.

SPD officials are coordinating with the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response in locating the victim. *Leila Salaverria*

BF proposes search . . .

From page A24

tend to their garbage.

Fernando said he would bring up the proposal with Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina.

He added that the MMDA has already begun fielding teams that would monitor the volume of garbage littering a barangay's streets and clogging up its waterways. He said that the data collected would be submitted to the DILG, along with the recommended sanctions for the erring barangay officials.

Fernando also said that a quest for the cleanest barangay could also be launched, and the MMDA would provide the prizes.

MMDA officials earlier had called on barangay officials to prevent their constituents from throwing trash into the waterways because the garbage contributes to massive flooding in most areas of Metro Manila. Fernando had even called on the "*maton*" or neighborhood toughie to throw their weight around and prevent residents from fouling up canals and rivers.

Under RA 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act, local government officials may apprehend anyone caught dumping garbage in waterways.

Fernando also said that the MMDA team is keeping track of the informal settlers who are the biggest polluters of waterways.

"Squatters who pollute waterways will be the first priority in demolition," he warned.

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SQUATTERS who soil the waterways with their waste are in the crosshairs of the MMDA demolition team.
VAL HANDUMON

BF proposes search for dirtiest barangay

'Winning' officials to be suspended, sacked

By Leila Salaverria

THIS is a contest no one would ever want to win.

With barely a month to go before the rainy season comes and residents still throwing garbage in waterways with impunity, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday proposed to launch a contest to find the 20 dirtiest communities in Metro Manila.

The "prize:" Suspension or dismissal for the "winning" barangay chairperson.

"The barangay captains will be removed from office for dereliction of duty," Fernando said, adding it is the duty of barangay officials to keep their areas clean. He also said everyone should be responsible enough to

BF PROPOSES/ A23

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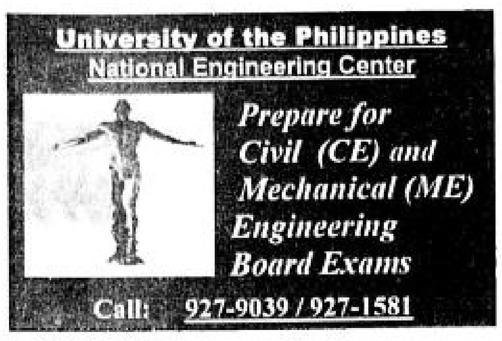
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Sunday SPORTS

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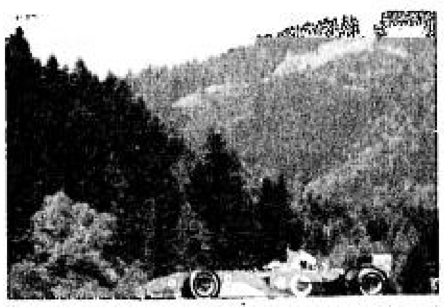


Schumacher takes pole in Austria /A30

Pistons show Sixers the door /A30

Hawkins rejects P2.7 M /A26

Great escape by Delariarte

Champ survives another scare, gains final vs Saragoza

Matches Today
7 a.m. J. Bayron vs. M. Dumandan (for 3rd place)
7:10 a.m. J. Delariarte vs. M. Dumandan (for 1st place)

By Jong Arcano

LIKE a cat with so many lives, defending champion Jerome Delariarte pulled off yet another escape act yesterday to advance to the final of the Philippine amateur golf championship.

Delariarte had even looked a goner this time as he trailed the upset-minded Marvin Dumandan by three with only four holes to go in a semifinal duel that had all the trappings of a title match.

But as in his two previous duels, Delariarte rose from the grave, winning three consecutive holes to forge a sudden-death playoff then saved par on the first extra hole to reach the final for the third time in the last four years.

The player standing in the way of Delariarte's bid to become only the seventh repeat winner here in 54 stagings of the event is Boyet Saragoza, a dusky ace who disposed of his Malaysia Southeast Asian Games teammate Jay Bayron, 3&2.

Saragoza raced to a three-hole lead after 12 holes and lost just one of the remaining six to make it to the finals for the first time.

It will be a long 36-hole battle for Delariarte and Saragoza starting at 7:10 a.m. at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club today. Bayron and Dumandan get going earlier in their own fight for third place at 7 o'clock.

"Yes, I'm feeling like a cat with so many lives," said Delariarte after the latest of his escape acts. "I'm just so glad to be still alive and be in the finals."

Returning to the first hole for the sudden-death playoff, Delariarte and Dumandan left their approaches short.

SARAGOZA: First timer in finals

Delariarte then chipped from the rough to within 10 feet of the flag while Dumandan blasted out of the bunker to about eight feet.

Putting first, Jerome rolled in the uphill par-saver then watched as Dumandan blew the pressure-packed sidehiller.

Delariarte should have long been gone if not for his Houdini-like capers.

In the first round Thursday, he teetered on the brink of elimination only to get a free lift from a sorry miss of a short putt by Jonard Rates on the last hole of regulation. Delariarte eventually won in 22 holes.

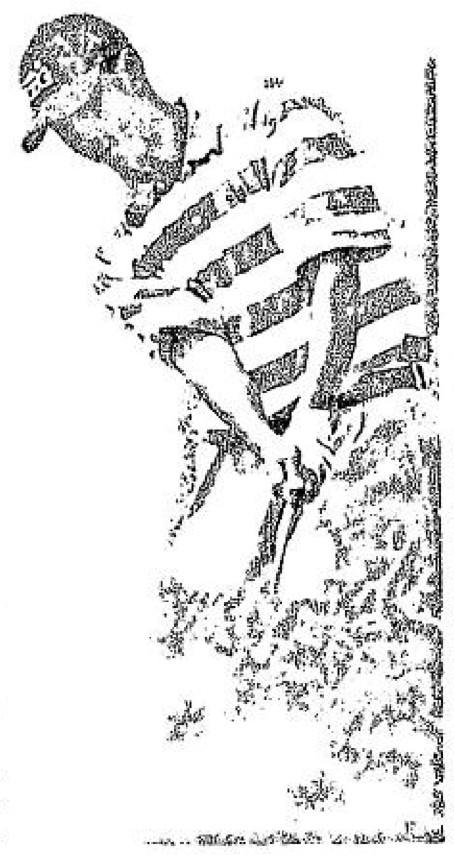
Against Juvic Pagunsan in the quarterfinals on Friday, he needed another big rally to prevail, again on the 22nd hole.

Delariarte, 24, was given up for lost this time when Dumandan, all charged up from the support given by a partisan gallery that included his parents, club officials and caddies, went three up after the 14th hole.

"I tried to stay focused, I know the crowd was behind Marvin but I didn't let any kind of pressure stop me from my goal of winning," Delariarte said.

He avoided getting dormie by winning the next hole with a birdie from 10 feet. Still facing the prospect of an outright loss, Jerome stayed alive when Dumandan bogeyed the 16th.

Obviously shaken, Dumandan collapsed completely on the easy par-3 17th, taking a double bogey from below the green that allowed Delariarte to pull even.



DELARIARTE: Like a cat with nine lives. JESS YUSON

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FedEx eyes berth in Asian invitational

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Sta. Lucia

By June Navarro

ASSURED of a slot in the next phase, the FedEx Express now focus on another goal: advance into the Asian Invitationals devoid of hitches.

This will be their rallying point when Express tackle the Sta. Lucia Realtors tonight in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"That's precisely what we are concentrating on, now that the quarterfinals' cast in our group is already complete," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren, whose Express are two games away from securing a spot in the Invitationals.

The Express eliminated Purefoods, 77-76, thereby towing San Miguel Beer (10-6), Alaska (8-8) and Sta. Lucia Realty (8-8) safely into the quarterfinals.

The Hotdogs put that setback under protest but PBA Commissioner Noli Eala immediately denied it, affirming referee Ernie De Leon's decision to award the win to the Express after Jerry Codiñera sank a twinner as time expired.

"Although we find it unacceptable, we will abide by the commissioner's decision," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

As a bonus, Pumaren clinched the headcoaching portfolio of the Group A selection in the coming PBA All-Star Game on June 1.

It will be Pumaren's fifth stint as All-Star Game head coach, tying the number of times Robert Jaworski had held onto the post.

"I'm not really thinking about the coaching job in the All-Star. My focus right now is for the team to grab every opportunity in time for the quarterfinals," said Pumaren, who had lost three of his four previous All-Star coaching stints.

In the other match, the Alaska Aces try to trip Coca-Cola in a bid to arrest a five-game skid.

Hawkins rejects ₱2.7 M

HAWKINS: Waiting game.

By June Navarro

RENE Hawkins yesterday rejected a P2.7 million contract settlement from the FedEx team, saying he would rather wait for the Philippine Basketball Association to render a final decision on his case.

Hawkins said he was not filing a case against FedEx, citing the danger of losing and getting nothing in the end.

The former Alaska ace said he is leaving the issue in the hands of PBA commissioner Noli Eala, who had ruled that the Express management honor the remaining two years of his four-year contract worth roughly P400,000 a month.

"Right now I'm just waiting for the commissioner to implement his decision," said the 12-year PBA veteran in Tagalog.

FedEx management dangled P2.7 million as settlement to cover the last two years of Hawkins' pact, which the 6-foot-4 power forward signed with Tanduay in 2000 before the franchise was purchased by FedEx.

FedEx team manager Lito Alvarez earlier said the Express was prepared for a legal battle in case Hawkins refused the offer.

"I could smell danger the moment I bring the case to court because if I lose, I will definitely get nothing in return," Hawkins told the Inquirer. "Let's just leave it in the hands of the commissioner."

Eala has asked Alvarez to file a formal appeal with the PBA Board of Governors in the next two weeks, after which the commissioner will finally decide the issue.

On April 9, Eala ruled that the Express honor the remainder of Hawkins' contract worth almost P9.6 million, but Alvarez countered with a P2.7-million offer to settle the case once and for all.

Hawkins sat out the entire 2002 season but still earned P4.2 million, an amount FedEx shelled out to cover his salary for one year before the contract dispute commenced in January.

Prevented from strutting his wares in the league for more than a year, the former University of Perpetual-Help standout keeps himself in shape by playing pickup games in Camp Crame and at the Sta. Lucia Realty facility in Cainta.

The 1996 Mythical Team member is also busy taking care of his youngest brother, who underwent three operations within the month to remove liquid in his brain.

"I just hope the case would end as soon as possible because I'm raring to play competitive basketball again," said Hawkins.

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 005

Move it!

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / ☐ False: "Chess" comes from the old French word esches which means "Check!"

2 > 5 Pts.
What's the name of the IBM supercomputer that humbled world champion Garry Kasparov in 1997?
☐ Dark Blue
☐ Deep Blue

3 > 7 Pts.
Whom did Anatoly Karpov beat in the 1978 World Championship held in Baguio City?
☐ Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland)
☐ Bobby Fischer (USA)
☐ Garry Kasparov (USSR)

4 > 10 Pts.
What's the expression used by a chess player who is about to adjust a piece on the board, to ensure that this will not be counted as an official move?
☐ En passant
☐ J'adoube
☐ Zugswang

5 > 15 Pts.
Who was the first woman to win a men's chess tournament, and the first woman to earn an international grandmaster title?
☐ Xie Jun (China)
☐ Elizabeta Bykova (USSR)
☐ Judit Polgar (Hungary)
☐ Nona Gaprindashvili (Georgia)

6 > 25 Pts.
In August last year, Sergei Karyakin of Ukraine became the youngest grandmaster in chess history with a FIDE rating of 2523. How 'old' was he then?
☐ 11
☐ 12
☐ 13
☐ 14

7 > 30 Pts.
In 1976 he won the tough Moscow Central Chess Club International Tournament, becoming only the second foreign player--the first was the great Cuban world champion Jose Raul Capablanca-ever to rule an international tournament in Russia. Who was this Filipino?

ANSWERS/ A30

300 now assured of SEA Games slots

DAYRIT

A TOTAL of 300 athletes have already passed the requirement for joining the national delegation to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit announced yesterday.

Dayrit said the number is expected to rise as the December Games draws closer because more national sports associations are fielding in their bets.

"We are expecting the national sports associations to submit at least 500 names before the June deadline ends." Dayrit said.

The Philippines sent 300 in Malaysia two years ago, went home with 31 gold medals and finished fifth place.

Dayrit said they want to win more medals this time since the country will next host the SEAG in 2005.

Dayrit said the POC screening committee will study the case of some NSAs whose athletes failed to compete abroad, as foreign stints are supposed to be the basis of qualification to the SEAG.

"We will have to talk about it," said Dayrit who will preside over the POC general assembly late this month.

POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros earlier said the POC will be flexible in choosing the athletes because not all NSAs get to have foreign exposure.

Dayrit said he is confident the criteria to be used in determining the composition of the delegation would be sufficient.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Blu drags Viva to rubber match

GAME ON TUESDAY (*Pasig Sports Center*)
3 p.m.—Blu Star Detergent vs Viva Mineral Water

By Dennis U. Eroa

BLU STAR Detergent leaned on the all-around performance of Eric de la Cuesta to repulse Viva Mineral Water, 77-71, yesterday and force a knockout duel with the Water Force for the fourth and final semifinal slot in the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The 6-foot-3 De la Cuesta scattered 28 points on top of eight rebounds, five assists and four steals as the Detergent Kings kept their hopes alive of making the semifinals via the backdoor.

Viva came to the game enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage but it was clear that Blu wasn't in the mood to call it a day.

The knockout match is set on Tuesday with the winner joining early semifinalists John O, Hapee and Montaña.

"It's back to square one," said coach Leo Isaac, who is eyeing to extend Blu's season following a disastrous campaign in the elimination. "The pressure is on Viva because it lost its twice-to-beat edge."

Blue was in command most of the way, leading by as much as 17 points at 57-40, 2:22 remaining in the third period on a jumper by De la Cuesta.

But Viva did not capitulate easily and threatened at 67-70, 1:19 remaining.

With De la Cuesta in check, it was the turn of Lou Gatumbato to keep Blu afloat, recovering his own fumble to score, 72-67. Roland Pascual and De la Cuesta then hit four straight free throws to secure the win.

Rey Mendez also shone for Blu with eight points and a team-high 14 rebounds.

The scores:

BLU 77—De la Cuesta 28, Lopez 13, Gatumbato 11, Prior 10, Mendez 8, Pascual 7, Gamboa 0, Garcia 0, Taguines 0.

VIVA 71—Miranda 14, Misolas 12, Margate 11, Jones 8, Isip 6, Ybañez 6, Sinco 4, Co 3, Razon 3, Napa 2, Catli 2.

Quarters: 22-14, 34-30, 61-49, 77-71

Heavy rains threaten Preakness

BALTIMORE, Maryland—Heavy rain fell at the Pimlico racetrack throughout Friday morning, the day before the Preakness Stakes, second leg of the US Triple Crown.

A steeplechase event on Friday's racecard was called off and three other races scheduled for the turf were switched to the dirt track.

The National Weather Service has forecast rain continuing through Friday, tapering early Saturday morning. Overcast skies are forecast Saturday afternoon. The Preakness is due off at 6.12 p.m. (2212 GMT).

Track superintendent John Passero said if it stopped by Friday night the track would be fast for the Preakness.

Asked if he would guarantee it, Passero said: "Yes, as long as it stops tonight." The morning downpour meant some soggy horses –and trainers.

Bob Baffert, trainer of 5-1 shot Senor Swinger, said: "He looked great and he looked wet. I also looked wet, but I'm not sure about great."

Reuters

Raquel out

ONE WINNER
Edwin Villanueva

STAR jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr. is out. Is Dominador Borbe Jr. in?

Displeased with the way he handled Wind Blown last Sunday, Hermie Esguerra fired Raquel as his leading stable jockey the other day, paving the way for Borbe to assume the post.

Borbe, according to my Silip Boy, will be Esguerra's top choice to ride Wind Blown when he returns to action following the humiliating defeat he suffered in the third First Gentleman Silver Cup race at Santa Ana a week ago.

Known as "Rapid Fire" because of his aggressive riding style, Borbe isn't a stranger to Wind Blown.

He has been the mastermind of Wind Blown's countless victories early in his racing career while the son of Hazm and Wind in My Hair was still running under the colors of the Javier stable.

But Borbe, my Silip Boy added, isn't the only option to handle the two-time Horse of the Year awardee.

Miguel "Badjao" Recosana, responsible for steering Wind Blown to victory in last year's Open Championship, was also seen partnering the horse in his workouts a few days back, fueling speculations that Esguerra might just tap his services again.

My Silip Boy said Hermie kicked Raquel out because his instructions for last Sunday's main event were not followed, particularly when Raquel didn't dismount before Wind Blown entered the outermost seventh box so as to "lighten the load a bit on the horse."

Remember that Wind Blown had a heavy 62-kilo handicap that day and the more than 30-minute stretch that he carried it from the parade up to start time, observers noted, proved too punishing.

Rumors also swirled that Raquel received a hefty sum from one horseowner just to throw the race away, infuriating Wind Blown's legions of fans all the more.

Aside from Wind Blown, Raquel's other regular rides at the Esguerra stable include Reigns Supreme, Kayang Kaya, Petro Dollar, Adam's Call and Nakagayak. Borbe, on the other hand, has been assigned to lead Triple Crown bet High Octane and subs for Raquel on Adam's Call and Petro Dollar.

***

While Wind Blown is being "cooled down" at the Herma Farms in Lipa City, there are talks that officials of the controversial San Lazaro Leisure Park are planning to stage a Wind Blown-Golden Ballet rematch at the Carmona, Cavite racetrack.

The question is, will Hermie Esguerra agree?

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph

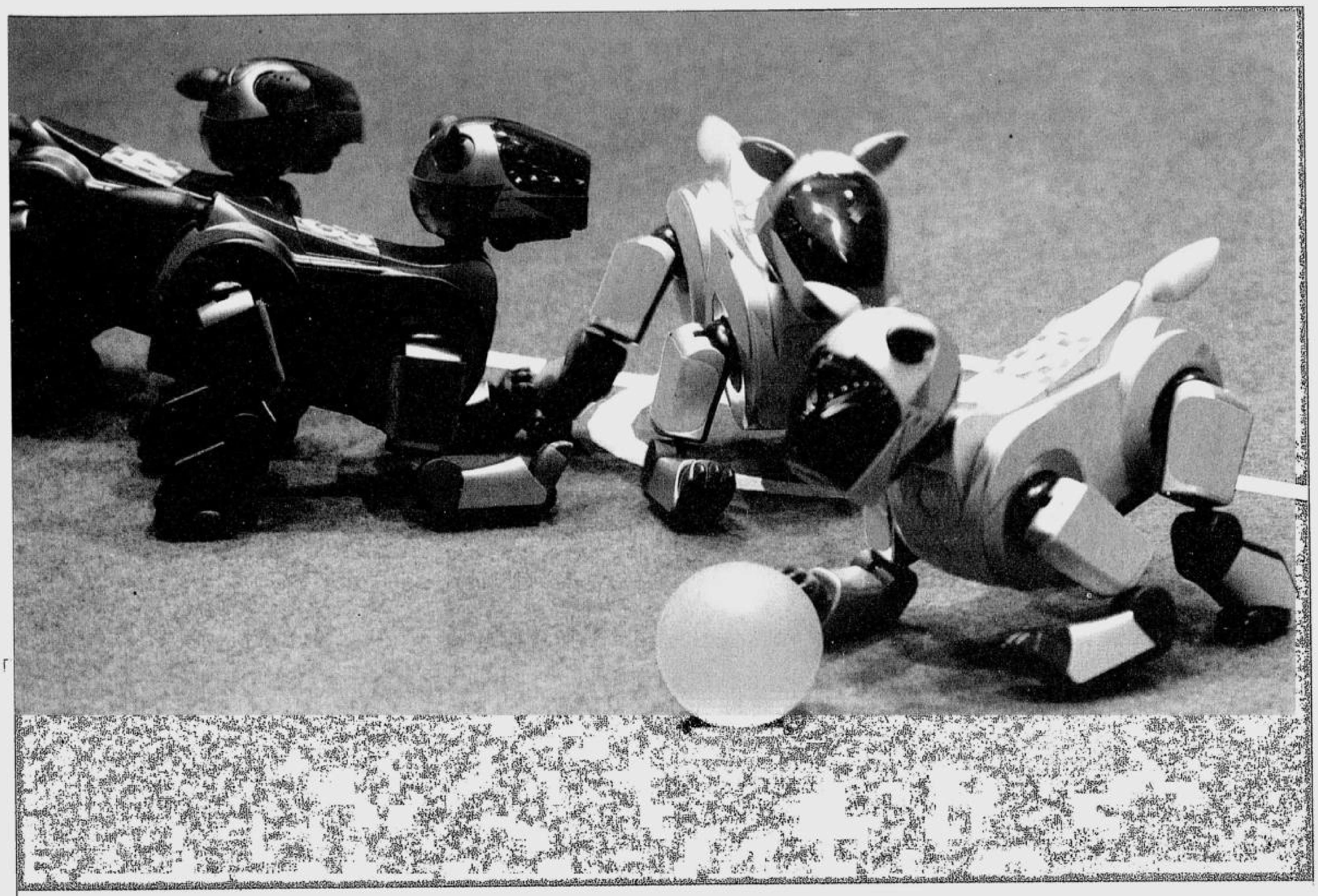
RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Patago 2. Schumacher
Race 2--1. Crystal City 2. Palachik 3. Houdini
Race 3--1. Time Specialist 2. Boss Lino 3. Nine West
Race 4--1. May's Magic 2. Dalidali 3. La Española 4. Gold Marlin
Race 5--1. Real Diamond 2. Little Sam 3. Friendly Lover 4. Eyewitness
Race 6--1. Aprey's Choice 2. Oh Diva 3. Star na Star 4. Lucky Gambit
Race 7--1. Renowned 2. Mrs. Big 3. Scenic Splendour
Race 8--1. Flying Strike 2. Salt Lake City 3. Boogie Shoes 5. Best of Times
Race 9--1. Classic Star 2. Steel Wheel
Race 10--1. Magara 2. Madam Aida 3. Express Strike 4. Precious Time
Race 11--1. Puppy Dog Tail 2. Praetorian 3. Candy's Angel
Race 12--1. Mica's Magic 2. Conquer D Sun 3. Spinning Bullet
Race 13--1. Cause of Our Joy 2. Max's Princess 3. Maging Matalino 4. Popularity

INQUIRER Golf Monthly
Hundred Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament
Cesar V. Purisima of SGV & Co.
on last year's Hundred Presidents Invitational.

"For a person like me who needs to pay close attention to details, I found the PDI golf tournament very organized and well-planned. The activity generated excellent camaraderie among the players and organizers. It was a wholesome opportunity to network with other executives and to exchange notes with people that I otherwise seldom see but often read about in PDI."



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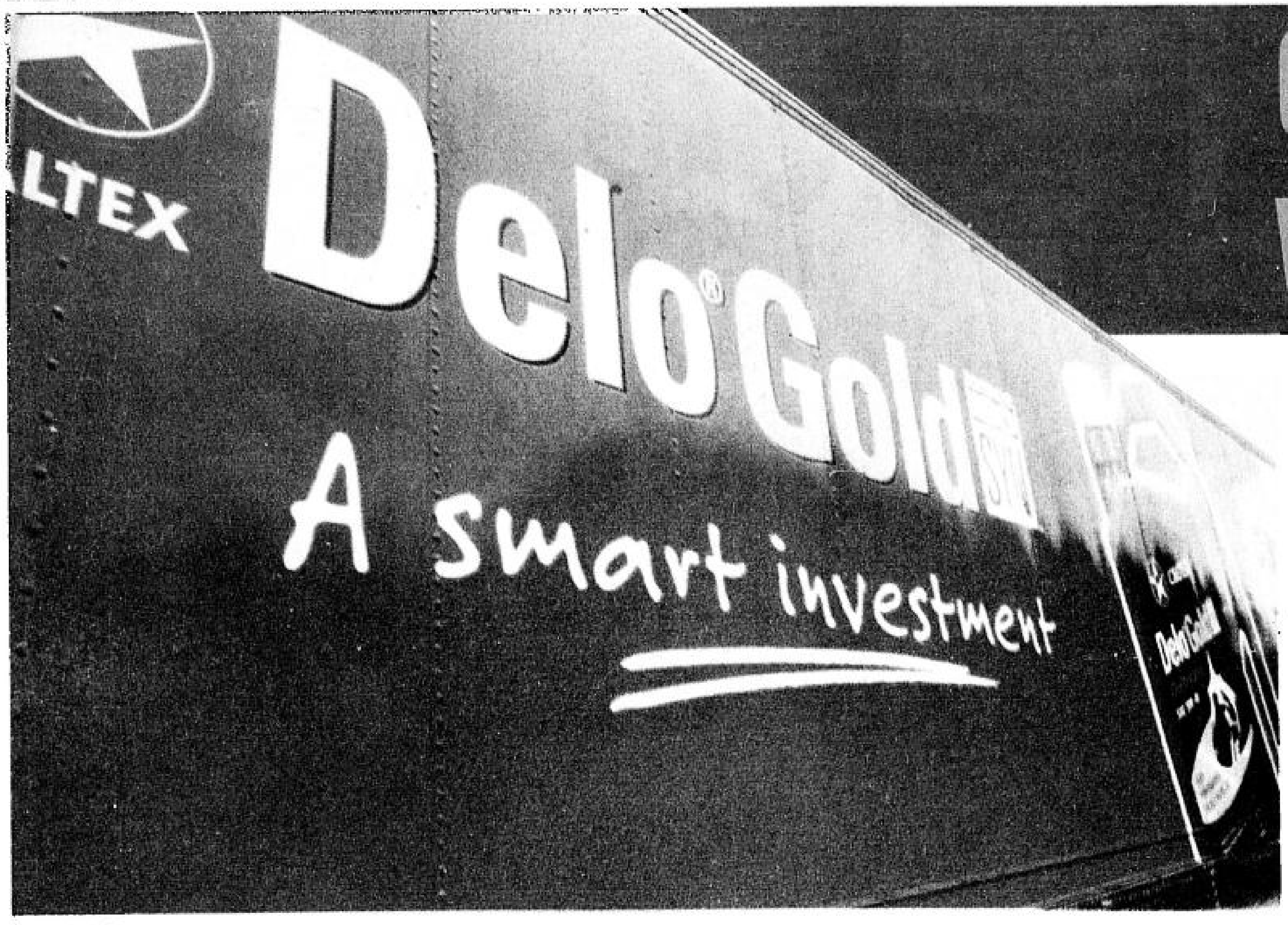

Caltex stre
with launch

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc., a ChevronTexac
marketer, brings its winning strategy of mai
a higher level with the reformulation of its
better meet the changing needs of consume

In order to highlight the product upgrade and reinforce the leadership of the Delo brand, Caltex announces that Delo 500 will now be known as Delo Gold. To clearly show the hierarchy within the product line, Delo 200, which has also been improved, will now be known as Delo Silver.

According to Steven Mulvaney, Caltex General Manager – Lubricants Sales and Marketing, product development is key to the company's success.

"Caltex is committed to developing better quality products using advanced technologies to cope with ever-changing market demands in the Philippines," Mulvaney said. "We continue to upgrade the market-leading Delo line of diesel engine oils which has gained the appreciation and trust of Filipino drivers for its reliability and performance. On-going product development will provide greater consumer benefits," he added.

Starting with its premium Delo Gold Multigrade SAE 15W-40, Caltex has formulated it with the unique ISOSYN™ technology, which has been proven to rival synthetic engine oils in critical engine performance tests. ISOSYN™ technology is based on the use of highly-refined base oils and an advanced additive package in the oil formulation. The new formulation delivers the highest protection for diesel engines running in high-speed, heavy-load operating conditions.

Delo Gold Multigrade SAE 15W-40 far exceeds the performance requirements of the American Petroleum Institute (API) classification CH-4. This product also meets stringent OEM performance specifications Volvo VDS-2 and Mack EO-M. Delo Gold Multigrade is suitable for Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's), 4x4's, and pick-ups. It is also best for fleets of heavy-duty trucks, buses, and construction machinery.

Delo Gold SAE 40 exceeds the Japanese Automobile Standards Organization (JASO) DH-1 Engine Test requirements. Delo Silver SAE 40 has also

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Delo Gold's ISOSYN™ technology breaks barriers

THE LAUNCHING of Caltex Delo Gold has signaled the introduction of a new technology, ISOSYN™.

ISOSYN™ technology is based on a breakthrough process, which reshapes molecules and converts base oil impurities such as sulfur, aromatics, and nitrogen into high-quality components. ISOSYN™ gives the oil superior oxidation stability that enables it to withstand chemical breakdown at very high engine temperatures typical to those experienced by modern diesel engines, especially those used in Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV's), 4x4's, pick-ups, and Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV's).

formulated with ISO SYN

The premium Delo Gold Multigrade SAE 15W-40 uses ISOSYN™ and an advanced additive package which provides the following benefits:

1. Reduces sludge
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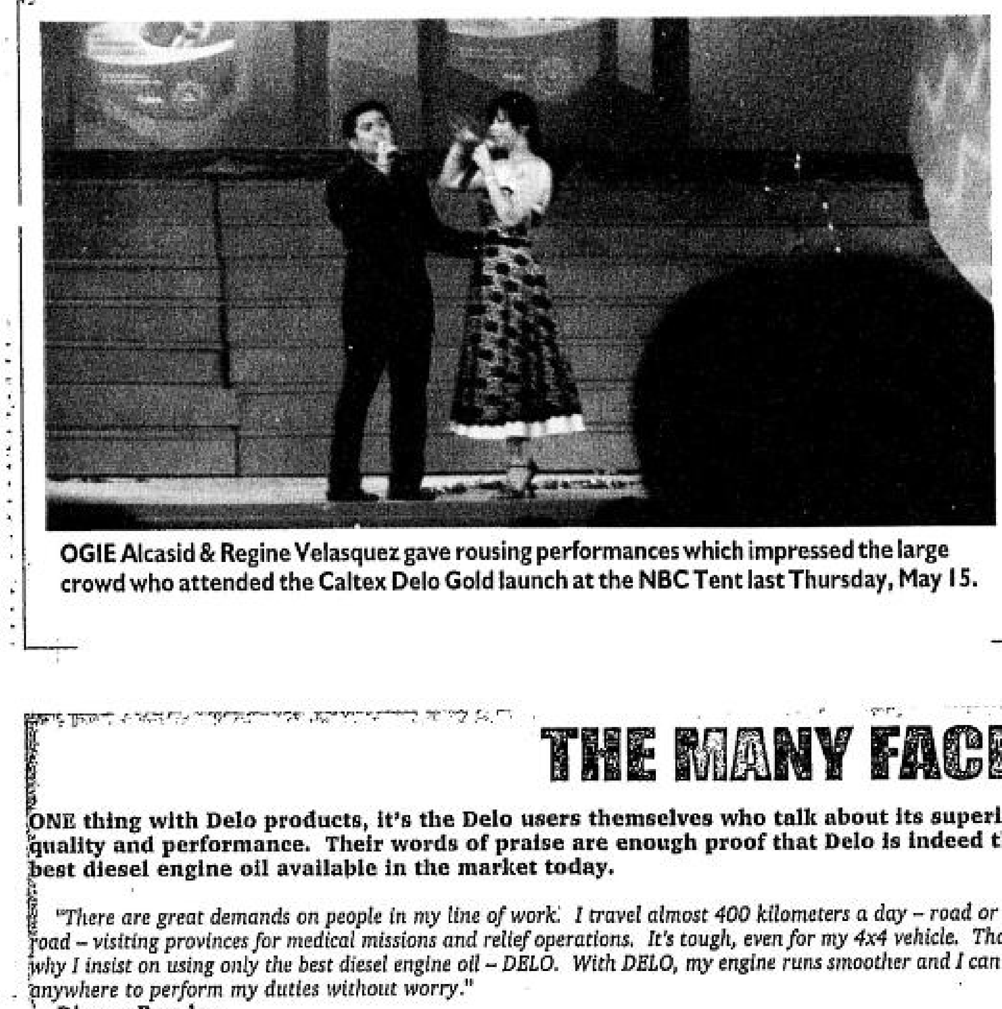
It has been proven that ISOSYN™ can rival synthetics in critical engine performance tests. This gives tremendous value as you get synthetic performance at only one-fourth the price of synthetic oils.

CALTEX
Delo Gold
Multigrade
SAE 15W-40

Delo Gold launch at NBC Tent

CALTEX executives Rob Morris, Jim Mc Geehan, Steve Mulvaney, Jojo Sacdalan, Jean-Ernest Maningo and Jun Masilang give the thumbs-up sign as they herald the introduction of Delo Gold.



OGIE Alcasid & Regine Velasquez gave rousing performances which impressed the large crowd who attended the Caltex Delo Gold launch at the NBC Tent last Thursday, May 15.

Introducing the Caltex Delo T

Text by Joel V. Nigos
Photos by Egay Montaña

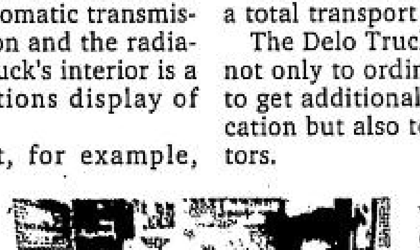
Delo Gold
Delo Gold
A smart investment

TALK about Filipino ingenuity, but more than that the desire of Caltex to reach out and to be of help to its customers.

Comes the Caltex Delo Truck, a roving training and exhibit venue for Caltex customers. To be displayed in trade fairs, special events and launchings as a way of promoting Caltex products, the Delo Truck aims to impart knowledge on the major components of a vehicle and the specific products Caltex has for each vehicle part.

Featuring various cutaways namely the engine, differentials, automatic transmission, manual transmission and the radiator, the exhibit in the Truck's interior is a technical cum applications display of Caltex products.

In the radiator part, for example, guests who will view the mobile exhibit will see how the Caltex Extended Life Coolant maximizes the heat transfer capability of the cooling system. It also shows how the product helps in corrosion control to both iron and aluminum and their alloys.



THE DELO Truck interior

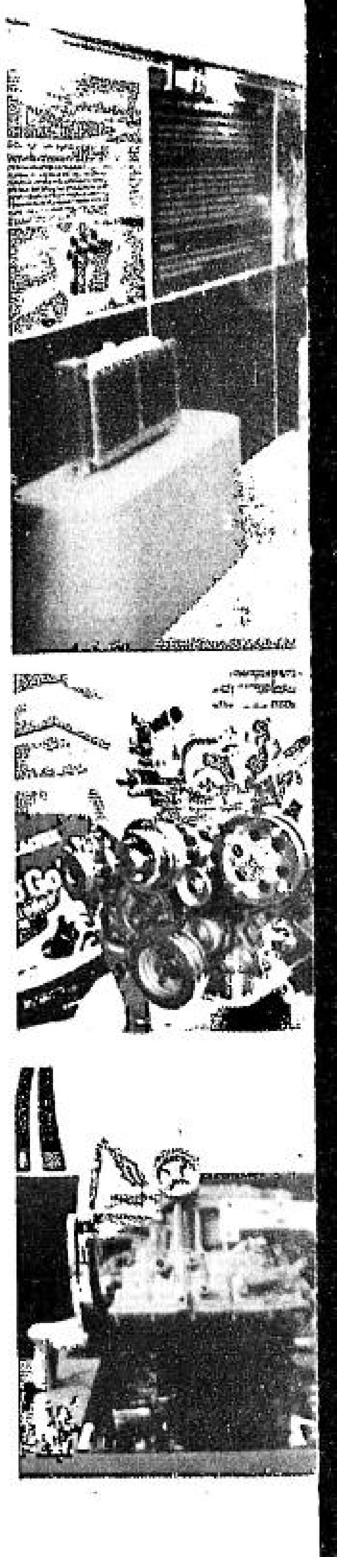
The use of the Caltex Delo Gold is shown in the vehicle's engine part. Same with the automatic and manual transmission displays with Caltex products Texamatic 1888 and Thuban GL-4, respectively. There's also Starplex 2 for vehicle parts such as the fifth wheel, clutch throwout bearings, universal joints, grease points (tie rod ends, spring pins, bushing, king pins and chassis), and steer axle wheel bearings. For the differential, there's Thuban GL-5 EP, which protects the combination of thermal degradation, component wear and oil seal deterioration.

The entire exhibit showcases Caltex as a total transport solution provider.

The Delo Truck would be most helpful not only to ordinary people who wanted to get additional knowledge on oil lubrication but also to drivers, or fleet operators.

Auto supply owners who made it possible Caltex products reaches customers would also benefit from this Truck since they will able to get additional knowledge about the product they sell.

Built approximately in three months, the roving training and exhibit venue was a former 32- feet container van before it was transformed into that sleek Delo Truck. It boasts of complete training facilities and also armed with a DVD/CD player for viewing of AVPs and other video training materials, a laptop and an analyzer. The Delo Truck will stay in the country for about six months after which it will be sent to other Asian countries where it will serve the same purpose of promoting Caltex products and imparting knowledge on various oil products and its function in every vehicle part.



THE MANY FACES OF DELO USERS

ONE thing with Delo products, it's the Delo users themselves who talk about its superior quality and performance. Their words of praise are enough proof that Delo is indeed the best diesel engine oil available in the market today.

"There are great demands on people in my line of work. I travel almost 400 kilometers a day – road or no road – visiting provinces for medical missions and relief operations. It's tough, even for my 4x4 vehicle. That's why I insist on using only the best diesel engine oil – DELO. With DELO, my engine runs smoother and I can go anywhere to perform my duties without worry."

Rimpy Bondoc
Congressman, 4th District, Pampanga

"Importante na tumibay ang tiwala ng mga customers ko sa akin. Kaya naman laging da best lang ang nire-recommend ko. Pagdating sa diesel engine oil, bilib ako sa DELO. 'Di nagpuputik ang makina kaya mas malakas ang hatak at matagal ang pagpalit ng langis. Sa DELO, siguradong hindi ako mapapahiya."

Jun Salvador
Experienced Mechanic

"Mahirap kumita sa pagpapasada ngayon at magastos pa ang pag-maintain ng dyip. Dito ko maaasahan ang DELO diesel engine oil. Nakakatipid ako sa gastos dahil mas protektado ang makina. Hindi rin kailangang mag-change oil palagi. Dahil sa DELO, mas malaki ang naiuuwi kong kita sa pamilya ko."

Tresolo Anog
Jeepney Operator/Driver

"As one of the biggest transportation bus companies in the country, we take care of a very large fleet. Here, customer service and vehicle availability is our priority. That's why we use DELO diesel engine oil. It keeps our buses in top condition. They can stay longer on the road, we get less downtime, and save on our operating cost. DELO really helps our bottomline."

Theodore M. Torrillo
Vice President, Maintenance
Yanson Group of Companies

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ngthens leadership of Delo Gold

CALTEX Delo®

company and major lubricants taining technology leadership to Delo line of diesel engine oils to rs.

Delo Silver
Delo Gold
Delo Gold

Formulation upgrade and new technology bring greater benefits to diesel engine oil consumers

formulated to provide better margin of protec- or diesel engines. Both variants meet API CF, ghest rating for monograde diesel engine oils. are best for commercial vehicles such as eys, Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV's), Light Com- al Vehicles (LCV's), trucks and buses.

th these new products, we will be able to so- our leadership in the market. The quality up- s will enable diesel equipment owners and rs to reap benefits such as prolonged engine mproved equipment durability, and increased ability," said Mulvaney.

vaney stated that Caltex's in-depth understand- consumers' needs and product development ade Delo the pacesetter in the industry. He these strengths as key contributors that have d Delo many international awards over the

ey will continue to be our key strategies to in- the level of consumer satisfaction and further then our positioning in the diesel engine lubri- market," he concluded.

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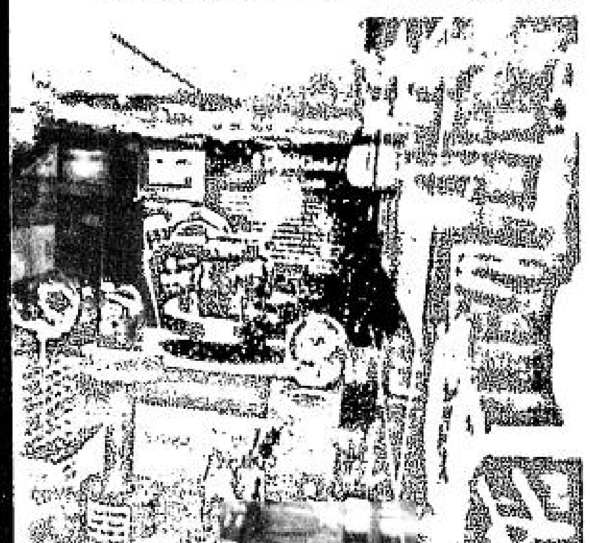

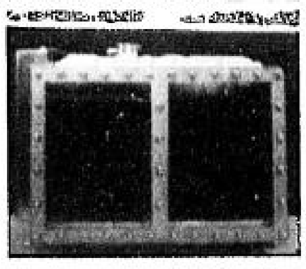

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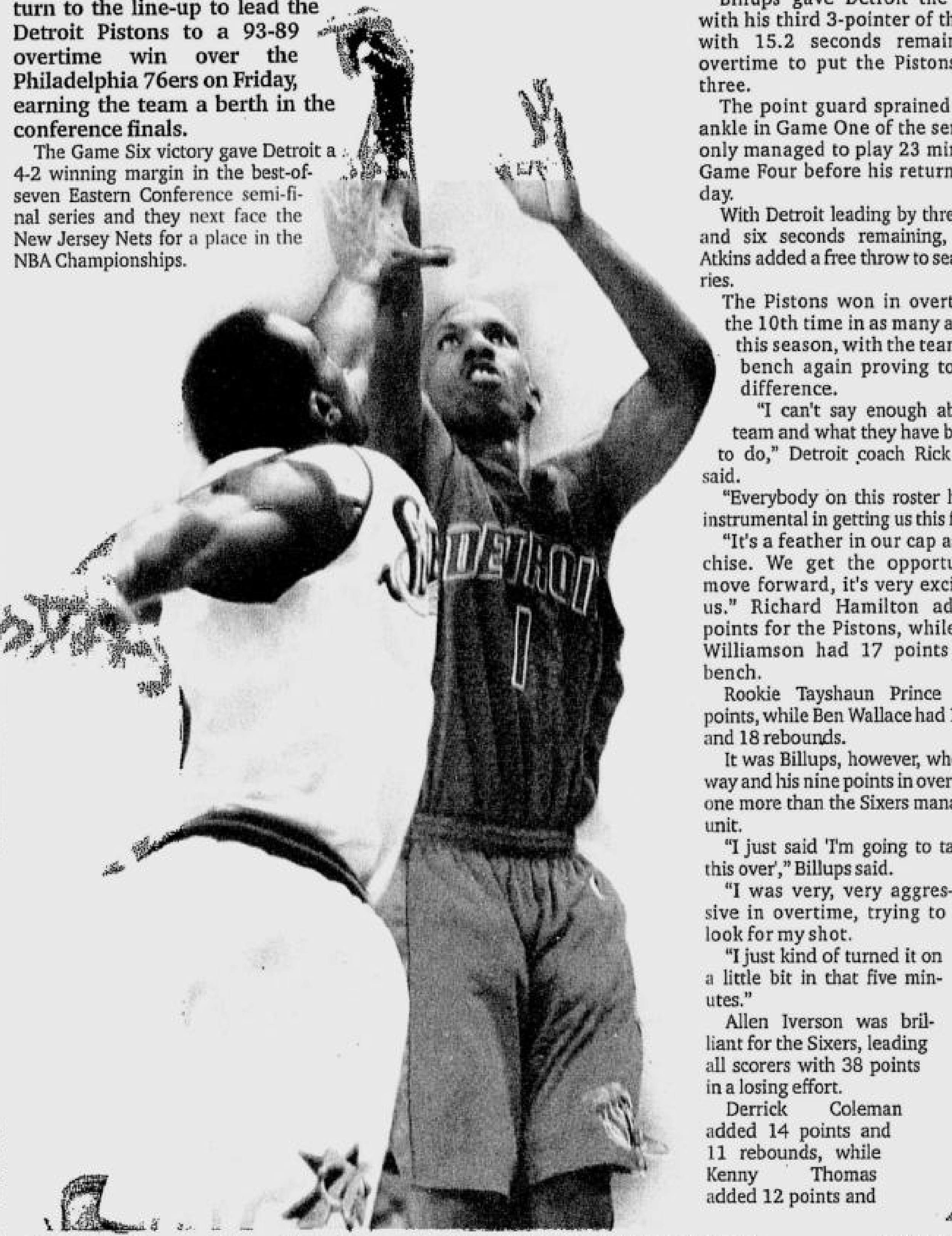
Pistons show Sixers the door

PHILADELPHIA--Chauncey Billups scored 28 points in his return to the line-up to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 93-89 overtime win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday, earning the team a berth in the conference finals.

The Game Six victory gave Detroit a 4-2 winning margin in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semi-final series and they next face the New Jersey Nets for a place in the NBA Championships.



CLINCHER: Chauncey Billups of Detroit jumps over Aaron McKie for a triple that proved to be the basket that lifted the Pistons to the NBA Eastern Conference finals. REUTERS

The series starts on Sunday afternoon in Auburn Hills.

Billups gave Detroit the victory with his third 3-pointer of the game with 15.2 seconds remaining in overtime to put the Pistons up by three.

The point guard sprained his left ankle in Game One of the series and only managed to play 23 minutes of Game Four before his return on Friday.

With Detroit leading by three points and six seconds remaining, Chucky Atkins added a free throw to seal the series.

The Pistons won in overtime for the 10th time in as many attempts this season, with the team's deep bench again proving to be the difference.

"I can't say enough about our team and what they have been able to do," Detroit coach Rick Carlisle said.

"Everybody on this roster has been instrumental in getting us this far.

"It's a feather in our cap as a franchise. We get the opportunity to move forward, it's very exciting for us." Richard Hamilton added 19 points for the Pistons, while Corliss Williamson had 17 points off the bench.

Rookie Tayshaun Prince had 14 points, while Ben Wallace had 10 points and 18 rebounds.

It was Billups, however, who led the way and his nine points in overtime was one more than the Sixers managed as a unit.

"I just said 'I'm going to take this over'," Billups said.

"I was very, very aggressive in overtime, trying to look for my shot.

"I just kind of turned it on a little bit in that five minutes."

Allen Iverson was brilliant for the Sixers, leading all scorers with 38 points in a losing effort.

Derrick Coleman added 14 points and 11 rebounds, while Kenny Thomas added 12 points and 14 boards.

Sixers coach Larry Brown was clearly disappointed by the loss, but proud of his team.

"I admire the hell out of this team," Brown said.

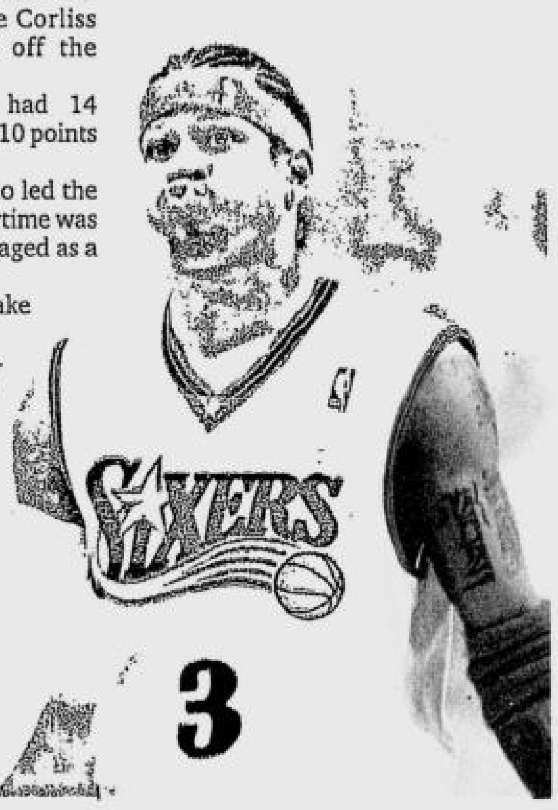
"We just keep trying.

"My hat goes off to Detroit and their kids. They're well coached. They deserved to win." Eric Snow's basket with 27.3 seconds left in regulation put the Sixers ahead, but Billups tied the game with 14.6 seconds left when he hit a pair of free throws after being fouled by Snow.

Philadelphia had a chance to win on the final possession, but couldn't get a shot off as time ran out.

"You can talk about would of, could of, but they got it done," Iverson said. "They were the better team." In overtime, the Pistons grabbed an 89-83 lead but Iverson scored six consecutive points to tie the game once more with 1:12 on the clock.

It was a tightly-contested defensive series and the Pistons finally broke through with the first road win of the two sides. *Reuters*



LOSER'S LOT: Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers reacts to their loss against the Detroit Pistons. AFP

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia
Pistons 3, Sixers 2
Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2: Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97
Game 3: Philadelphia 93, Detroit 83
Game 4: Philadelphia 95, Detroit 82
Game 5: Detroit 78, Philadelphia 77
Game 6: Detroit 93, Philadelphia 89
Detroit wins series, 4-2

(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston
Nets 4, Celtics 0
Game : New Jersey 97, Boston 93
Game 2 : New Jersey 104, Boston 95
Game 3: New Jersey 94, Boston 76
Game 4: New Jersey 110, Boston 101
New Jersey wins series, 4-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (5) LA Lakers
Spurs 4, Lakers 2
Game 1: San Antonio 87, Lakers 82
Game 2: San Antonio 114, Lakers 95
Game 3: Los Angeles 110, San Antonio 95
Game 4: Los Angeles 99, San Antonio 95
Game 5: San Antonio 96, Los Angeles 94
Game 6: San Antonio 110, San Antonio 82
San Antonio wins series, 4-2

(2) Sacramento vs (3) Dallas
Kings 3, Mavs 3
Game 1: Sacramento 124, Dallas 113
Game 2: Dallas 132, Sacramento 110
Game 3: Dallas 141, Sacramento 137
Game 4: Sacramento 99, Dallas 83
Game 5: Dallas 112, Sacramento 93
Game 6: Sacramento 115, Dallas 109
*Game 7 at Dallas (May 18, 8 a.m.)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

Sports' most powerful man is dead

NEW YORK--Mark McCormack, once dubbed the most powerful man in sport, died on Friday after failing to recover from a heart attack he suffered four months ago, his International Management Group (IMG) company said.

McCormack, 72, the founder, chairman and CEO of IMG, had been in a coma at a New York hospital since January 16.

He was a pioneer and founder of the sports marketing industry and his IMG company was widely known as the world's largest representative of sportsmen and sportswomen.

"It's a loss for everybody," said Tiger Woods, the world's number one golfer and a client of IMG, after hearing the news at the Tour Players' Championship in Gut Kaden, Germany.

"He was a genius when it came to sports marketing and, obviously, with his association with Arnold, Jack and Gary, they basically started sports marketing. If it wasn't for him, obviously, we wouldn't be in the position we're in right now."

McCormack began his sports career in 1960 by signing golfer Arnold Palmer and, as his business grew, he played a key role in how much athletes were paid and how their images were portrayed.

Arnie's agent

Palmer never forgot the moment McCormack struck that first deal. "Mark has never broken the faith of that handshake. That meant a lot to me," Palmer said years later.

McCormack's company, based in Cleveland, grew rapidly and now has 80 offices in 32 countries.

IMG represents a host of athletes ranging from McCormack's first clients, such as golfers Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Olympic ski champion Jean-Claude Killy, to tennis players Pete Sampras and sisters Serena and Venus Williams.

The company, which has over 3,000 employees and sells more than 5,000 hours of television programming to over 200 countries around the world, has also represented tennis players Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert and Andre Agassi.

McCormack's reach has stretched much further than the world of sport. He has even handled special projects for global leaders, such as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Pope.

But he will be remembered for revolutionising sport as he developed representing athletes into a business discipline and by demonstrating the value of sport as a marketing tool.

After Palmer, golfing enthusiast McCormack signed up South African Player and an unknown called Nicklaus before expanding into tennis with the signing of Laver in 1968. *Reuters*

Schumacher takes Austrian GP pole

SPIELBERG, Austria--Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher put Ferrari on pole position for what may be the last Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday.

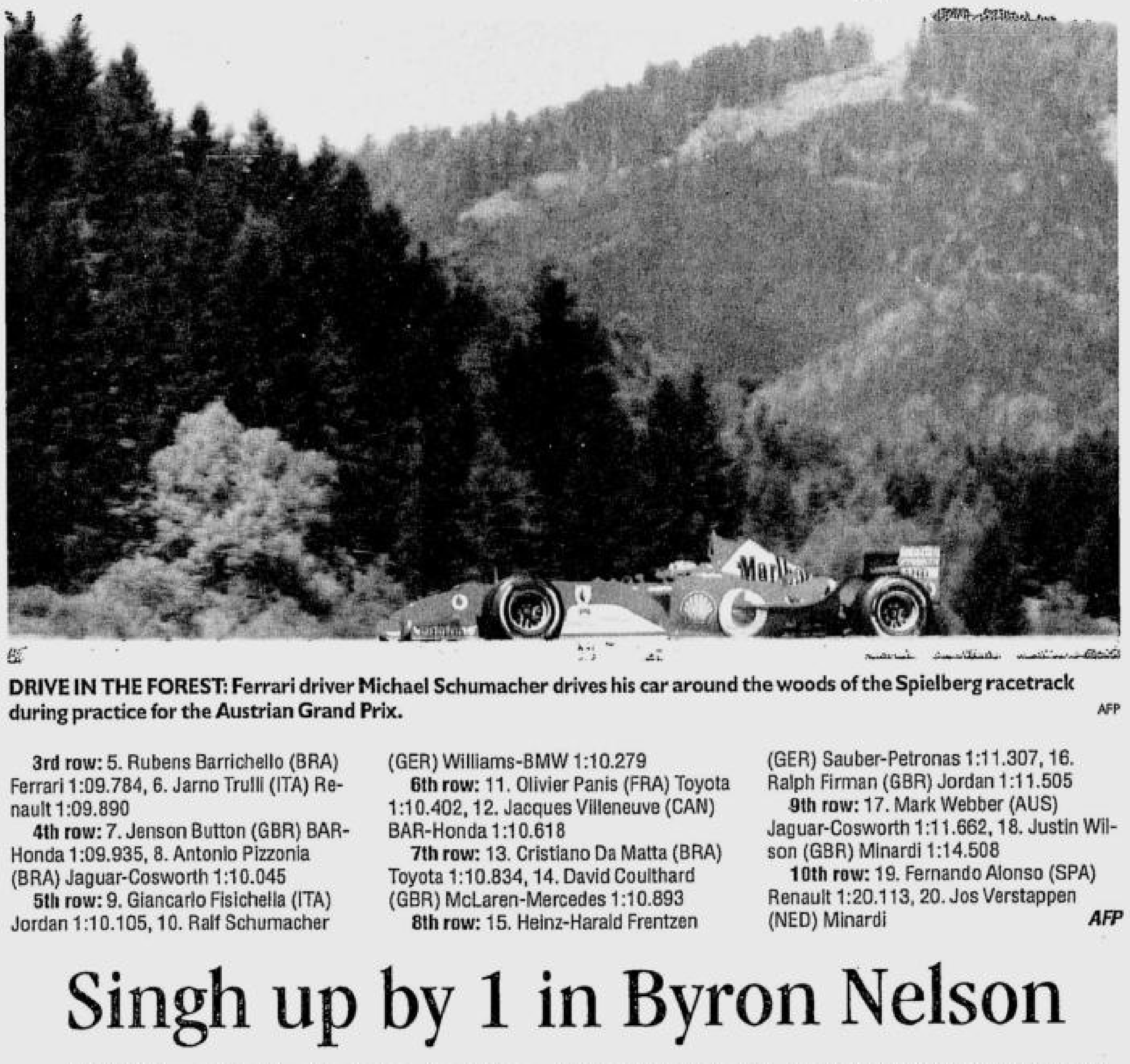
The German lapped the A1 Ring in one minute 09.150 seconds, just 0.039 faster than McLaren's championship leader Kimi Raikkonen in a session that saw some of the top names come unstuck.

Spaniard Fernando Alonso, runner-up for Renault in his home grand prix two weeks ago, went wide into the gravel trap at the Niki Lauda curve and will start at the back of the grid.

Jaguar's Australian Mark Webber, third in Friday's first qualifying, also went wide at the first Castrol corner and was pushed back to 17th alongside Briton Justin Wilson in a Minardi.

The pole position was Schumacher's third in a row and second in three years at the scenic southern Austrian circuit where he won a controversial race last year as team mate Rubens Barrichello was ordered to move over and let him win.

Sunday's race has been billed as Austria's farewell to the championship, the grand prix due to be axed to make way for new races in China and Bahrain next year. *Reuters*



DRIVE IN THE FOREST: Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher drives his car around the woods of the Spielberg racetrack during practice for the Austrian Grand Prix. AFP

Pole positions

1st row: 1. Michael Schumacher (GER) Ferrari 1min 09.150sec, 2. Kimi Raikkonen (FIN) McLaren-Mercedes 1:09.189

2nd row: 3. Juan Pablo Montoya (COL) Williams-BMW 1:09.391, 4. Nick Heidfeld (GER) Sauber-Petronas 1:09.725

3rd row: 5. Rubens Barrichello (BRA) Ferrari 1:09.784, 6. Jarno Trulli (ITA) Renault 1:09.890

4th row: 7. Jenson Button (GBR) BAR-Honda 1:09.935, 8. Antonio Pizzonia (BRA) Jaguar-Cosworth 1:10.045

5th row: 9. Giancarlo Fisichella (ITA) Jordan 1:10.105, 10. Ralf Schumacher (GER) Williams-BMW 1:10.279

6th row: 11. Olivier Panis (FRA) Toyota 1:10.402, 12. Jacques Villeneuve (CAN) BAR-Honda 1:10.618

7th row: 13. Cristiano Da Matta (BRA) Toyota 1:10.834, 14. David Coulthard (GBR) McLaren-Mercedes 1:10.893

8th row: 15. Heinz-Harald Frentzen (GER) Sauber-Petronas 1:11.307, 16. Ralph Firman (GBR) Jordan 1:11.505

9th row: 17. Mark Webber (AUS) Jaguar-Cosworth 1:11.662, 18. Justin Wilson (GBR) Minardi 1:14.508

10th row: 19. Fernando Alonso (SPA) Renault 1:20.113, 20. Jos Verstappen (NED) Minardi *AFP*

Irishman leaves Tiger struggling

GUT KADEN, Germany--Padraig Harrington's flawless six-under-par 66 meant the Irishman took a three-shot lead in the second round of the Tour Players' Championship and surged nine strokes ahead of playing partner Tiger Woods on Friday.

Harrington added six birdies to his seven from the opening round and moved to 13-under-par 131, three strokes ahead of the player who pipped him to the European number one spot last year, South African Retief Goosen.

Woods, by contrast, had to fight for his birdies and when he bogeyed two of the first three holes, the unthinkable was fleetingly on the cards -- that he might miss his first cut after making 119 successively worldwide.

As Harrington moved past Goosen, who had earlier set the 10-under target with a 69, Woods slowly regained his composure to ensure he would be playing at the weekend, shooting a 71 for joint 38th place.

Singh up by 1 in Byron Nelson

IRVING, Texas--Fiji's Vijay Singh shot his second straight five-under-par 65 to move into a one-stroke lead after the second round of the Byron Nelson Championship on Friday.

The world number seven and two-time major champion stands on 10-under-par 130 after a tidy round in gusting winds at the Cottonwood Valley Golf Club.

Tim Petrovic took over sole possession of second spot after a four-under 66 at the TPC at Las Colinas in an event being played on two courses.

Cottonwood is the shorter of the two venues being used this week but will not be played over the weekend, with the field playing 54 of the event's 72 holes at Las Colinas.

After shooting a one-under 69 at Las Colinas, first-round leader Jeff Sluman is tied for third on 132 with Robert Gamez, Kevin Sutherland and Scott Verplank.

Singh was among the early finishers on Friday afternoon and it appeared likely that his 10-under total would be surpassed.

Sluman, for example, began his second round already on eight-under.

But as strong winds added to the difficulty of the two courses, few players could match Singh's 65 and only two, Verplank with a 63 and Patrick Sheehan with a 64, could better it.

Singh said he believed the wind had a more pronounced effect on Cottonwood -- considered the easier of the two courses -- than on Las Colinas.

"Every hole is left to right wind or into the wind or crosswind," he said.

"I really hit the ball well. I drove it well, made two bogeys and still shot that number. I'm really happy the way I'm playing. I'm excited about the weekend." After winning the Phoenix Open in his third event of the season, Singh injured a rib muscle on the driving range and was out of action for six weeks.

When he returned, Singh did not play particularly well at the Bay Hill Invitational, tying for 20th, then missed the Players Championship cut.

His form picked up with a tie for sixth at the Masters.

He followed with ties for ninth in the Houston Open, 11th in the New Orleans Classic and second in the Wachovia Championship last week. *Reuters*

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A26

1. True
2. Deep Blue
3. Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland)
4. J'adouble
5. Nona Gaprindashvili (Georgia)
6. 12
7. Rosendo Balinas, Jr.

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Tanamor, Lerio gain boxing finals

KAUNAS, Lithuania—Harry Tanamor and Arlan Lerio breezed through their semifinal bouts Friday, assuring RP Revicon of a decent finish in 7th A. Socikas International Boxing Tournament here.

Showing why he's a prime prospect for an Olympic medal, Tanamor exacted revenge on Belarus' Zmaicik Sergej, 28-14, in the 51 kg semis to close in on his third international title. Sergej bested Tanamor in Poland last year.

Lerio, a Sydney Olympian out to prove that he isn't over-the-hill yet, trounced Slovenia's Roman Durina, 16-8, in the 54 kg division as the Philippines assured itself of at least two silvers and two bronzes in the 14-nation event sanctioned by the Amateur International Boxing Association.

The 24-year-old Tanamor, who won in Azerbaijan and Greece last year, will be gunning for the gold against local bet Ivan Stapovic. The Lithuanian is best remembered for beating Violito Payla, another Olympic hopeful, last year.

Back in the national pool after a two-year absence, Lerio drew Belarus' Chacigov Chavazi for his final opponent.

"We're on the right track. Our aim really is to fine-tune the boys for the bigger tournaments ahead," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez, referring to the Filipinos' stints in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December and the Manila Olympic Qualifying in January.

Jenebert Pasadre and Esmael Bacongon settled for bronzes in the 57 kg and 61 kg categories, respectively. Local bet Marius Narkevicius subdued Pasadre, 12-6, while Latvia's Alvaras Urbonavicious defeated Bacongon, 18-5).

"So far, the officiating is okay. We have a good chance if it stays that way in the finals," said head coach Pat Gaspi, who's being assisted here by SPO1 Alex Arroyo.

Russia and Ukraine sent five boxers each to the finals, followed by Poland and Lithuania with three each.

RP Revicon is being supported by Pacific Heights and the Philippine Sports Commission and is outfitted by Accel.

After this tournament, the Filipinos will proceed to Sevilla, Spain for the BoxAm international championships from May 18-25 and then to Greece for the Acropolis Cup from May 28-June 2.

Sitting the best exercise

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IN case you are not aware, sitting also burns calories. It is not true that only those who jog or run regularly are healthy. It is not also true that you become unhealthy if you sit all day. On the contrary, sitting makes you healthier than you think.

The benefits of sitting are endless.

Sitting keeps you safe. It keeps you from harm's way, as in a dog bite. You know, the streets are filled with *askals* and joggers aren't safe that much anymore from rabies.

How can a wayward truck hit you when you are at home sitting, watching television, in a village far from Edsa or España?

This stationary exercise, unlike the treadmill, is cerebral.

Do you know that sitting makes you think better? Think about this: How could I have written this piece if I were on the run, or even just walking?

Sitting produces piano prodigies. How could Mozart have become a musical genius if he spent more hours walking than sitting? For it was when he sat that he played the piano.

I've said this before but I'll say it again if only to emphasize the obvious: Sitters are better lovers than joggers because, in the first place, how can one make love when one is on the run? And in the second place, how can you orally espouse love when you are jogging? Nobody would listen; fellow joggers will hear you but their concentration will be impaired as motion encourages commotion more than emotion, if not secretion of blissful juice.

Of course, of all the exercises available to mankind, sitting burns the smallest amount of calories: 80 per hour. But still, that should be taken positively. You sit longer and that'd amount to more calories burned.

Swimming takes the lion's share in the exercise pie for calories burned per hour: 790 with crawl stroke.

Studies show exercise can promote good long-term health no matter how much you weigh. One benefits from any exercise done correctly.

But as I pointed out in an earlier column, a good exercise would amount to nothing if you do not maintain a healthy diet. And what is a healthy diet again? A little of everything should do it, although lots of fruits and vegetables will do wonders to your health. Two glasses of wine a day will help disinfect vital body organs of hostile microbes.

Heed Lewis Rissman's grandpa: Two inches tall of brandy, or any "crazy water" as the American Indians called the whisky then, poured into a glass and swigged every night should bring you to the ripe age of 105.

"You know, my grampa lived a hundred and five," said Lewis, 39, now the golf director at Riviera. "His secret was a drink of two jiggers a night before he hit the sack. And after every lunch, he took a nap. Not even my gramma could break that routine."

For the record, Newsweek lists weightlifting as second to sitting in least calories burned per hour at 215 in a tie with volleyball (215 per hour, recreational). Golf follows at 250 (played with cart), lawn mowing 325, walking 325 at 4mph, kayaking 360, dancing 395 (nightclub), water-skiing 430, hiking 430, aerobics 505 (high impact), racquetball 505 (recreational), tennis 505, in-line skating 505, skiing 575 (cross-country), hockey 575 (ice or field), martial arts 720, bicycling 720 at 15mph, and running 720 at 10/mile pace.

Have you picked your own exercise?

For me, it has been sitting all this time, even when I was still an active cyclist. When I switched to basketball, sitting still occupied most of my time during a game mainly because I was a bench warmer; later, I sat a lot on the bench when I became coach. Even now that golf is my game, I still do a lot of sitting. I tell you, it's a healthy exercise.

And you too have a lot to thank for because of my favorite exercise. For, with sitting, we see each other five times a week.

But whether that's too much of a penitence on your part or not, I have no idea. Spare me, though. I'm relaxed always at the thought that sitting, more than jogging, buys my family the food on the table.

At times, there's even some money for beer.

***

FASTBREAK. My family and I condole with the loved ones left behind by Doña Josefa L. Salud, who died on May 15 at 98. The remains of the deceased, the mother of former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, lie at the Nuestra Señora dela Estrada on Katipunan Ave., Quezon City near Ateneo.

***

ERRATUM. The Fastbreak portion about Danny Floro should have appeared last Friday. There was a mix-up. Sorry for the mix-up.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying; 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r); Race Day; 7 p.m.; Star Sports–Ferrari and Michael Schumacher hope to keep their winning streak alive in Austria.

BASKETBALL: Kings vs Mavericks, Game 7; 8 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports–It's win or go home as Dallas hosts Sacramento in this do-or-die contest.

GOLF: Michelob Light Open; 10 a.m.; ESPN–Jennifer Rosales' seventh place finish in this event marks her best performance so far this year.

PGA Byron Nelson; Third Round, 4 p.m. (r), Final Round, tomorrow at 3 a.m.; Star Sports–Third and final round action goes into full swing in the Lone Star State.

TENNIS: Hamburg Masters; 10 a.m., 12 noon and 10:30 p.m.; Star Sports–The warm - up event to the French Open winds up in Hamburg.

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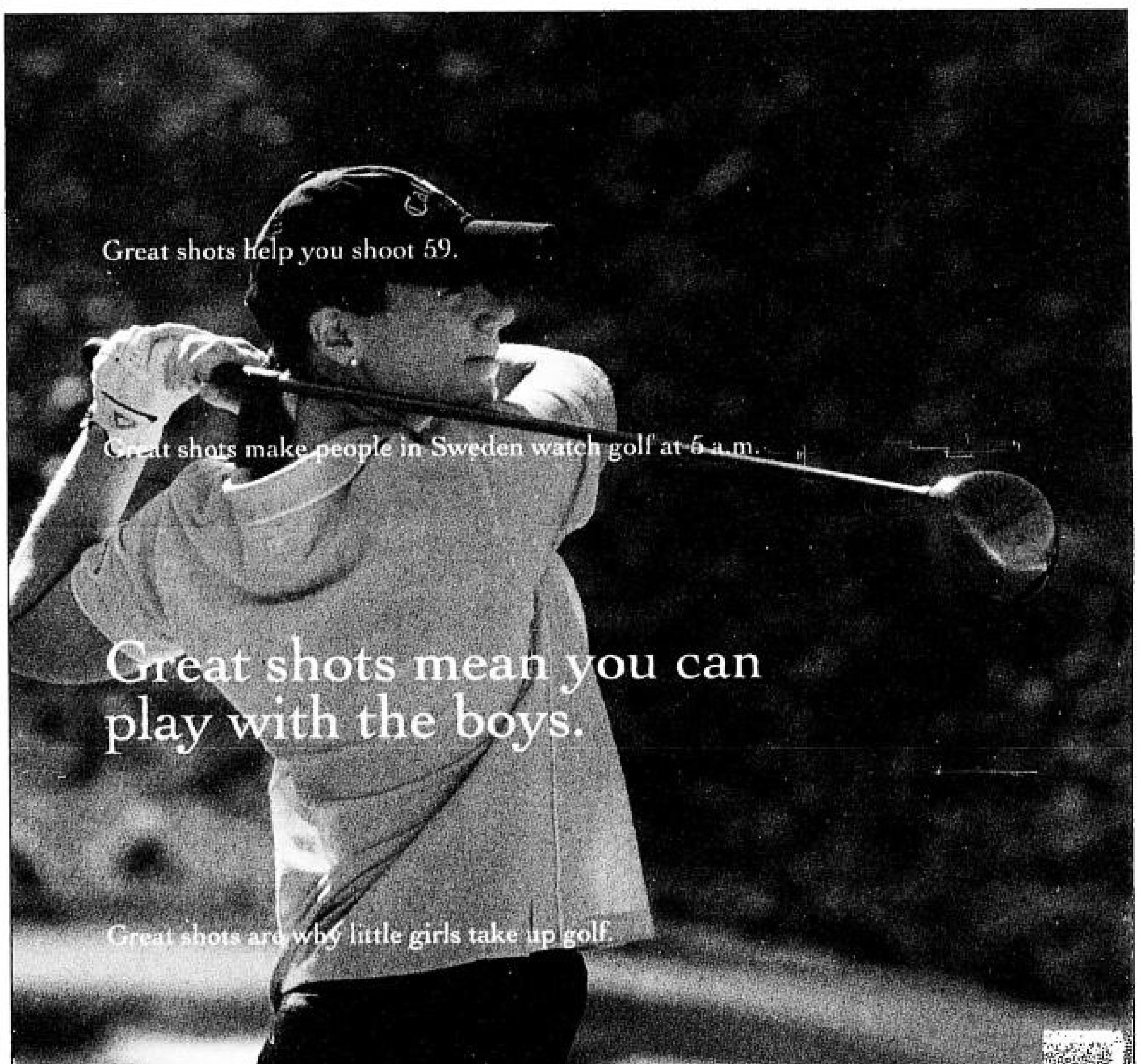

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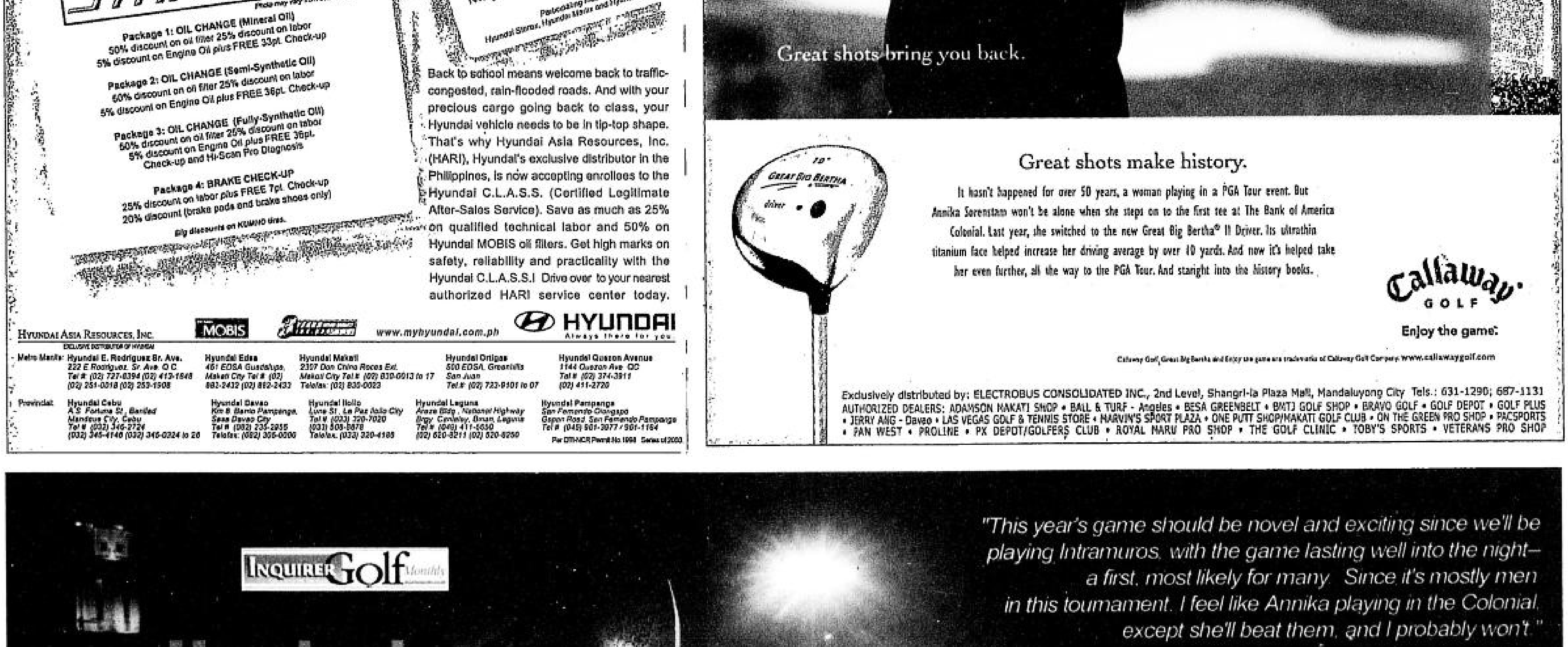

INQUIRER Golf Monthly

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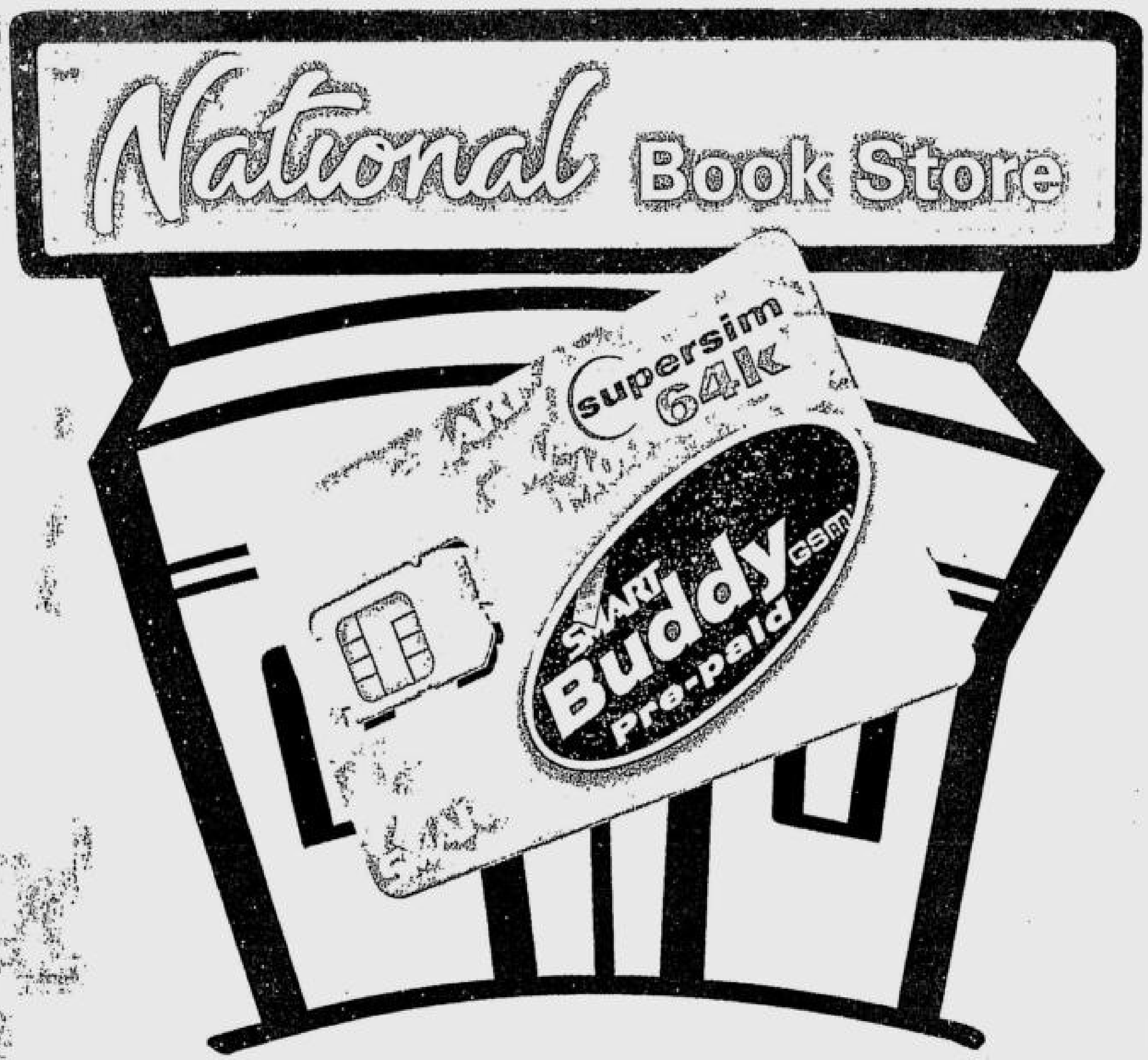
"This year's game should be novel and exciting since we'll be playing Intramuros, with the game lasting well into the night– a first, most likely for many. Since it's mostly men in this tournament. I feel like Annika playing in the Colonial, except she'll beat them, and I probably won't."

Bernadine Siy, Roasters Philippines, Inc
Invitee, 2nd Hundred Presidents Invitational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Finance exec fulfilled promise with first pay

YALONG today

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE FIRST thing that Felipe Yalong did when he got his first salary of P420 a month from SGV & Co. was to buy his 11-year-old sister a set of toy plates, cups and saucers.

It may not seem like much, but for Yalong it meant the fulfillment of a promise he made to himself at 12, when his mother passed away, that someday he would make his baby sister happy.

YALONG during his long-haired days at SGV and Co.

This third child in a brood of six carried this sense of responsibility since the time he started working in 1977, barely two weeks after passing the board exams for Certified Public Accountants.

He tells SundayBiz that he looks to his father as his role model who shaped his work ethic, eventually leading him to become senior vice president and chief financial officer of GMA 7, the country's second largest broadcasting company.

"My father worked for the Philippine National Bank for over 30 years and I saw for myself how dedicated he was to his job," Yalong says.

"I remember coming home from a long day in the office to see him still there at 12 midnight still drafting his report that he needed to present to the board. That stuck to me," Yalong adds.

He displayed the same passion for hard work and dedication throughout the four years that he worked in SGV.

First Job

Yalong, however, did not go into accounting right away, saying that he actually wanted to become an engineer, thus, his decision to go to the Mapua Institute of Technology.

"But it was a disaster from the first semester so I thought that I was not cut out for engineering," Yalong says.

That posed a problem for his father because his limited funds as sole breadwinner raising six children only went so far as to bankroll a four-year course for each of his children.

"Our deadline was four years each to finish our college course so I shifted and the easiest school to transfer to was the Philippine School of Business Administration. I took up accounting there and I was able to finish it within the four years set by my father," he says.

Being able to work for SGV was proof that he made the right decision, but he left the prestigious auditing firm in 1981 when he was offered to be the project controller for the Construction Development Corp. of the Philippines, which counted the construction of the PNB headquarters along Roxas Blvd. as one of its main projects.

The next year he was offered another job, this time as audit manager for an affiliate of the state-run National Development Corp.

He would stay with the government until 1987, just after the Lopez family got back Benpres Holdings Corp. following the Edsa revolution.

"One of my former bosses called me and told me that the Lopezes were looking for a controller and I took the opportunity because I have always thought that to work for the Lopezes was ideal," Yalong says.

Yalong became one of the first finance people of the Lopez family and he found himself moving to the broadcasting industry from transport, which was one of his fields before joining Benpres.

"One of my first tasks with ABS-CBN at that time was to look for money for the network so I looked at the balance sheet and made use of the bank facilities that were available to us at that time," Yalong says.

The Lopez group at that time

FINANCE/ B2

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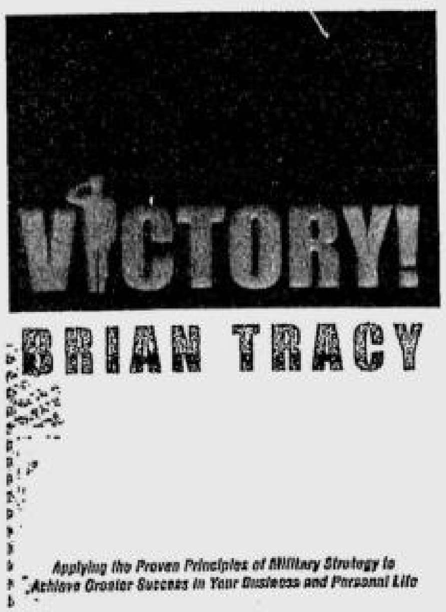

VICTORY!
BRIAN TRACY
Applying the Proven Principles of Military Strategy to Achieve Greater Success in Your Business and Personal Life

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

"Victory"
Brian Tracy
American Management Association (AMACOM), 2002

EXECUTIVE READ

WHEN it comes to self-help books, those who present general principles instead of detailed how-tos are preferable. Why? Because they manifest the respect the author places on his readers.

Here comes a refreshing exception to the how-to mode—Brian Tracy with his latest book, "Victory," subtitled, "Applying the Proven Principles of Military Strategy to Achieve Greater Success in Your Business and Personal Life." It contains 12 basic principles needed to attain victory at work and in one's personal life.

The book may sound intimidating to some at first blush, conjuring as it does images of stern officers shouting obscenities at hapless foot soldiers or even razing a city to the ground. Fortunately, Tracy sees "generalship" in the mold of "officers and gentlemen." In fact, Tracy says in his introduction, "Victory" is for the ambitious, energetic, determined, success-oriented individual. As for ordinary mortals, the author assures us that "each of the principles of military strategy can be learned."

Having trained more than two million people, written 26 books and turned around 22 different businesses in diverse industries, the author easily convinces us when he says that we are moving into the "Golden Age" of mankind, an age when more people will accomplish more than have ever been accomplished or dreamed of in all the history of humanity. And we eagerly anticipate winning our personal battles and "being all that we can be."

The author dedicates one chapter each to the 12 tried and tested principles of strategy that have been used by top military leaders for more than 20 centuries and by business executives, too. He helpfully subdivides these into "business" and "personal life." Each of the 12 principles, the author declares, has by itself been responsible for victories or defeats. What's more, each of them works as well in the concrete/corporate jungles as well as in the battlefield.

The Principle of Maneuver ("Remain flexible at all times"), for example, is applied by the author to the "Hail Mary" attack during the Gulf War: "After eliminating the ability of the Iraqi army to get accurate information on the movement of his army, General Norman Schwarzkopf moved what appeared to be a large force up to the Kuwaiti border. The enemy moved forward to meet the attack.

"Meanwhile, under the cover of night, Schwarzkopf had moved 250,000 troops 50 miles to the west. Then they launched a sweeping flank attack around the Iraqi forces, cutting them off at Basra and effectively ending the Gulf War. By destroying the enemy's ability to get accurate intelligence, Schwarzkopf was able to end the war quickly and effectively. He concentrated on reducing the time necessary to win the war and came up with the single most effective maneuver."

The chapters deal with fundamental strategies—like "clarity," for example. A leader or a manager cannot hope to lead his men if his goal is not clear to him and if his strategy is fuzzy.

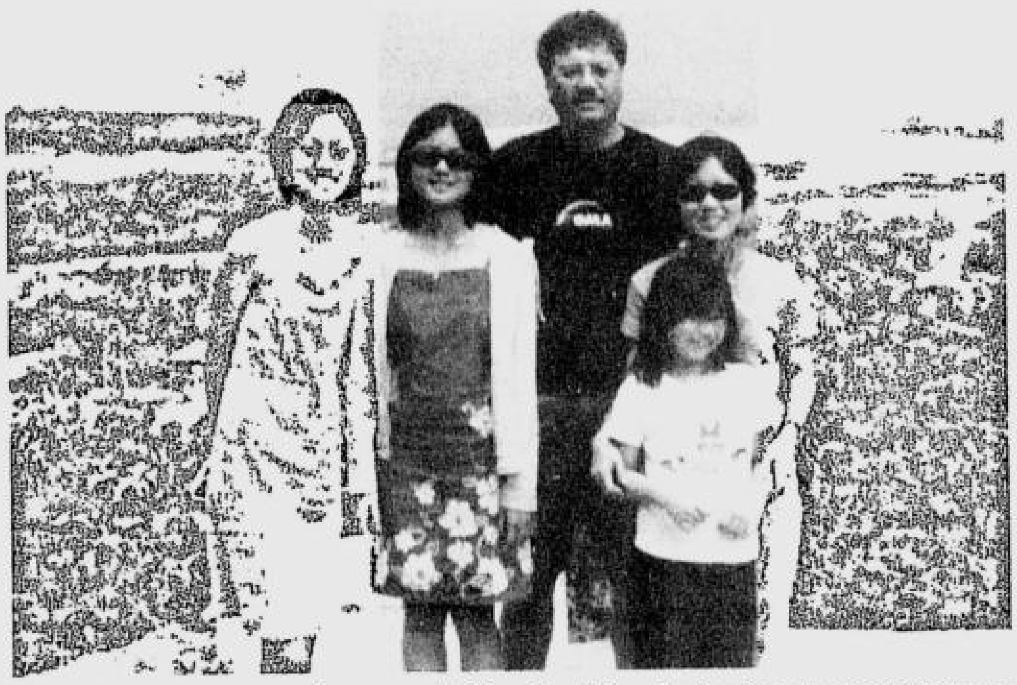
The author deftly weaves his considerable experience in personal and professional development into his interest in military history. For that he might well take his place among the strategists he so knowledgeably expounds on.

Tracy makes sure he drives home the point by devoting the 13th and last chapter to a review of the 12 strategies. That's putting the Principle of the Mass ("Focus single-mindedly one on thing, the most important thing, and stay with it until it is done") to practice.

Contemporary books may not agree to our usual bent of using the metaphors of war and the similes of the battlefield. Some authors are now saying we are "marching to a different drum"—not of battle but of peace. And yet, the compelling truths about winning the war are durable in a world of conflict or contest. Thus, the book remains relevant and certainly useful. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

Finance exec . . .

From page B1



YALONG with his family during a recent trip abroad

was bent on rebuilding the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network and during Yalong's stay, it was able to cement its dominance in the broadcasting industry.

"It was in ABS-CBN where I really learned how to handle money and to deal with bankers. At that time, the bankers were not familiar with the broadcasting industry," Yalong explains.

In 1991, however, Yalong felt himself becoming bogged down by routine, thus, he went for the chance to go for further studies.

He enrolled in a Management Development Program at the Asian Institute of Management and the additional knowledge helped him combine what he already knew from practice with the latest management theories.

Finance and accounting, however, were not the only fields of expertise that Yalong concentrated in.

He says that from day one, he has always felt a passion for dealing with people—not only the bankers and the executives but the members of the rank and file.

"I dealt with all kinds of people in my career, especially during my days with the government where I dealt with the NDC officers and the stevedores. I learned then that you should always give importance to people regardless of their position," Yalong says.

He says that this lesson may have contributed to his ability to readily handle negotiations with the rank and file for collective bargaining agreements.

"In ABS-CBN I was able to deal with the executives all the way to the propsmen, that was why I was able to handle CBA negotiations," he says.

Yalong stayed with ABS-CBN until 1997 when he decided to retire from the company and invest his retirement package in a company that he set up with his brother.

"We bought used xerox machines from the United States and Japan and then sold them locally. And since we were already in the machines, we expanded into the peripherals," Yalong says.

From the carpeted corridors of his office in ABS-CBN, he found himself manning a small store in Binondo where he and his brother put up their trading company. He was there practically every day for close to two years to personally man the operations and build the business.

It was during one of those days that he got a call, asking him if he wanted to join GMA-7. He was initially reluctant to move to the rival network, thinking that he left the corporate world for good.

Yalong, however, eventually moved on to GMA-7 in 1999 when he was challenged to prepare the company to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange, a feat that he accomplished when he was with ABS-CBN.

"At that time my business was already set up so I felt that I was ready to go back to the corporate world," he says.

Yalong adds that he loved the challenge that GMA-7 management gave him because if he is successful, he would be the first finance person to conduct an IPO for two broadcasting networks.

"I don't think anybody can just duplicate that. That is my dream right now, my milestone. If I can do that, then I guess I can retire again," Yalong says.

THE GMA-7 CFO during his NDC days

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Agenda
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM Registration
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Macromedia Freehand MX presentation
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Customer Case Study
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Break
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Apple Presentation
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Leftist turns bitter ampalaya into a gold mine

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

CAN you imagine the ampalaya—that common and notoriously bitter vegetable—becoming a gold mine?

That is how one entrepreneur describes his ampalaya business.

"Unlike the gold in a gold mine which will eventually run out, I can grow the ampalaya to meet the continuously expanding worldwide market for it as a food supplement for diabetics," declares Lito Abelarde, president of Herbcare Corporation, the company that introduced Charantia the first ampalaya commercial product in the country.

Charantia was formally launched in January 2000 and from then on Herbcare's domestic sales have grown at a phenomenal annual rate that averages at 160 percent.

It has also started to export Charantia and Abelarde projects that in less than five years, their export sales will be more than local sales.

At a time when most local companies are retrenching, Herbcare has been continuously expanding its office and sales staff from the original five to over a hundred, excluding those involved in the growing of the ampalaya and the processing of its fruits into Charantia teas and capsules.

The success of Charantia Ampalaya Food Supplements has inspired other entrepreneurs to introduce new brands of ampalaya commercial products so that now, there are over six other players competing for a share of the local diabetic market niche.

This surge in the demand for ampalaya products has catapulted this vegetable to become the country's most popular herbal plant.

Diabetes control

A survey last year showed that from less than five percent in 1995, 70 percent of Filipinos are now aware that ampalaya is helpful in the control of diabetes.

When asked how he built his financial kingdom on the ampalaya and his secret for staying a a leader in the market, Abelarde cites four main factors for his company's success:

"First, Charantia's beneficial claims are based on the published result of an independent clinical trial of Charantia itself. Because of this credible medical evidence, it was easier for us to convince doctors to try Charantia.

Second, our products really work as shown by the positive clinical experience of numerous doctors and their diabetic patients. These doctors now continue to prescribe Charantia and many diabetics have made Charantia a part of their daily diet;

Third, because of our unique dehydration process, Charantia's anti-diabetic potency comes in a tea product whose quality in terms of aroma, appearance and pleasant taste is unsurpassed. Charantia is also available in capsules which gives diabetics a wider choice;

And fourth, our company's innovative marketing strategy that goes beyond just selling Charantia. We work very closely with public health doctors in a nationwide campaign on the grassroots level to organize and mobilize the public, especially the diabetics themselves, for the prevention and control of diabetes. Our sincere, consistent and wide-ranging efforts to help people cope with diabetes beyond just selling our product is reciprocated by them with fierce loyalty to the Charantia brand."

Abelarde also explained that while the ampalaya has been traditionally used as a home remedy for diabetes and scientific studies have confirmed the plant's safety and anti-diabetic potency, he pointed out these studies were conducted on the ampalaya plant as raw material and not on a finished and branded commercial product.

Using technology

While all varieties of ampalaya plants may possess similar anti-diabetic potency, he pointed out that processing the ampalaya plant parts as raw materials into finished commercial products involves the use of technology, which if not appropriate, could very well destroy, diminish or alter the potency of the raw material so that the finished product may not retain the plant's potency.

He goes on to explain that the only way to ascertain that the finished product still retains the plants' potency is to have the finished product itself clinically tried by an independent party.

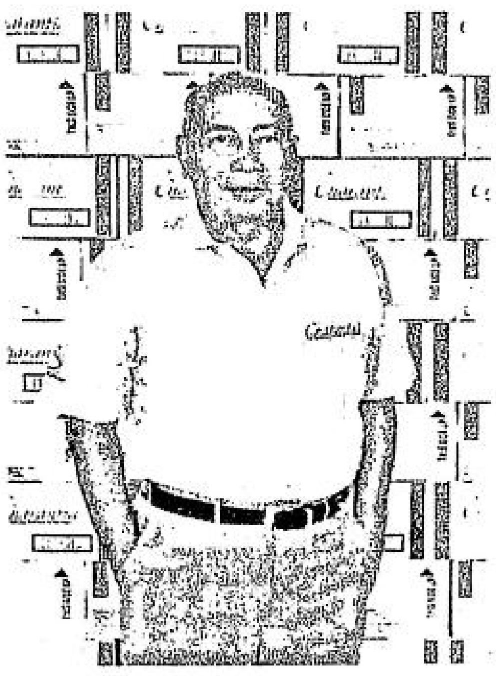
"It is hard to believe but it remains undisputed, that in the whole world, only Charantia brand of ampalaya food supplement has passed a published clinical trial conducted by an independent party and proven to be a safe and effective food supplement for diabetics," Abelarde points out.

"This fact makes all the difference between Charantia and all the other new ampalaya products. And to a large degree because of this, it was easier for us to persuade doctors, especially those in public service, to try Charantia. And their subsequent consistent positive clinical experience in using Charantia on their diabetic patients led to more and more doctors to continue prescribing Charantia. Ultimately, this led to Charantia receiving the official endorsement of the Association of the Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP) composed of doctors who run our country's network of municipal health centers," he added.

"This official endorsement of Charantia by a national medical association is also unprecedented in the whole world," Abelarde continued, "and this opened the doors for Herbcare to becoming the partner of AMHOP in undertaking 'Operation Diabetes', a program that entails organizing diabetics being served by public health centers into diabetic clubs and their mobilization for a nationwide and sustainable campaign for the prevention and control of diabetes."

Herbcare's very innovative marketing approach through community organization came very naturally to Abelarde who was once an active student activist involved in organizing and leading mass demonstrations. Abelarde revealed that he almost became a communist and remains, up to today, critical of unbridled capitalism.

But, to survive, he became a reluctant entrepreneur and to justify his being in business, he went to various ventures which he selected for their social relevance than profitability.



"Charantia's beneficial claims are based on the published result of an independent clinical trial so it was easier for us to convince doctors to try Charantia," says Abelarde

Abelarde, who is now a charismatic Catholic, says that "Charantia is God's answer to my prayer for a product that will make my being in business socially relevant. And promoting Charantia through grassroots community organizing brings me back to my student activism days when we felt like crusaders—I get the same high feeling now."

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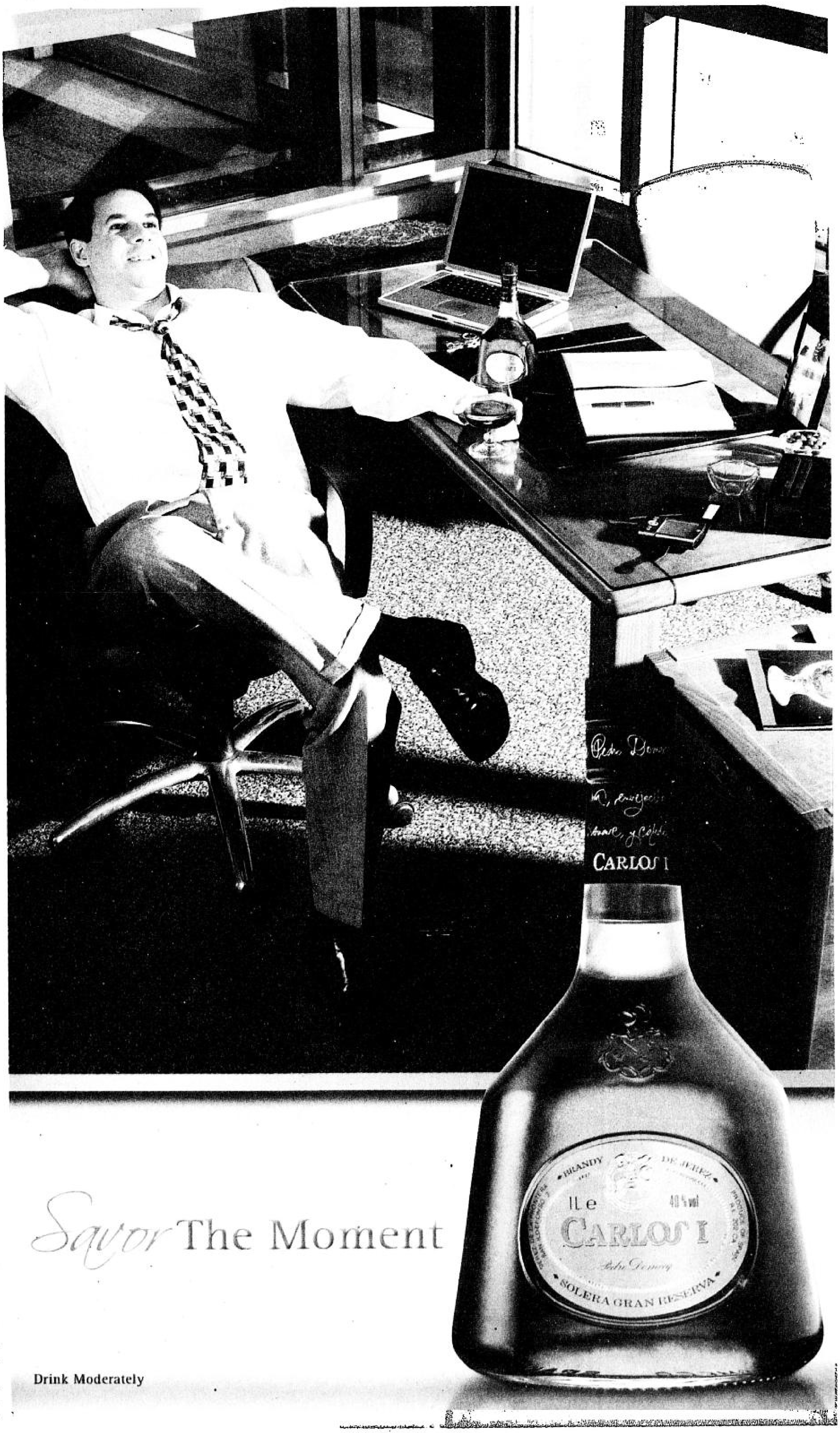


Opulence defined golden years of abaca industry

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TIGAON, Camarines Sur—Opulence is something that the abaca (Musa textillis nee) hacienda-owning families were used to in the 1920s, the golden years of the abaca hemp industry in the Philippines.

In this town, only nine families controlled the abaca hemp export trading and they owned almost all the lands here and lived in luxury. Among them were the Garchitorenas, Fuentebellas, Ceas, Badurias, Jacobs, Estellas, Ramoses, Natividads and Molls.

Rise of Filipino-Chinese

Interestingly, the legendary rise here of a Chinese-Filipino, from a peon in a port to a hemp-trading magnate in 1927, spoke of the fortune that came with the golden years of the abaca hemp industry in Bicol.

Pascual Leelin, a former peon in Nato (a town that shares a boundary with Tigaon) Port was one of the most successful Filipino-Chinese entrepreneurs and an icon in Camarines Sur's lucrative abaca hemp export trading industry.

In the 1920s, this town was the focal point of hemp international trading of the province, with two British companies competing in the buying and exporting of hemp to the United States.

The two British companies, British Colombia Cordage and Rope Co. and Smith & Bell Co., operated like a cartel in this town.

But Leelin successfully loosened the stranglehold that these two British companies had on the industry and by 1927, he became the province's biggest abaca hemp export trader. He was also named one of the richest men in the province and and considered a hemp trading magnate in the entire archipelago.

Decades later Milagros Leelin, the daughter of Pascual, founded the Goldilocks bakeshop chain.

Opulence and decadence

But the history of opulence brought about by the golden years of abaca hemp export trading here was checkered with decadence.

Three hacienda-owning families had to endure being the "talk of the town" because of lives led by some of their swinging bachelors. Two of them were even rumored to have sired more than 200 children each.

Lawyer Gualberto Cea Manlangit, a historical researcher of Tigaon town, said one of these swinging bachelors used to go around town with his signature Packard automobile, which was brought in straight from the United States.

Mute reminders

Manlangit said it was not only the hacienda-owning families here that experienced a life of plenty. Even the tenants and *parahagot* (sharecrop strippers) lived in abundance from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Several *alamasin* or warehouses in Tigaon town built during the American period still line the streets today as mute testimonies to the golden years of hemp export trading here.

Until the years after the Second World War, the *almasins* were dynamic edifices in this town.

Trading transactions were brisk and peons busily dried and packaged the traded abaca hemp into bales.

That was before Ecuador became a force to reckon with in the abaca trade. Before that, the Philippines was the single producer and supplier of the Manila hemp in the world market.

"It was after the Second World War that a Japanese national, Furukawa, one of the pre-war plantation owners in Davao, started field-testing and successfully cultivating abaca in Ecuador," a Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) official revealed.

Ecuador is now the second largest producer of abaca hemp in the world market. It produces 16 percent while the Philippines still corners the remaining 84 percent of the world's abaca hemp supply.

Cargo ships going to the United States used to make their last call in Nato Port.

From Manila, the cargo ships sailed down south through Burias Pass to dock at Tabaco Port, then made a final stop at Nato Port before traversing the international waters in route to the United States.

Best quality

Tigaon hemp, with its white and brownish hues, had the best quality in the world and known for its long fiber strands and tensile strength unequaled for use in ships. It commanded the highest price in the world market.

The invention of petroleum-based nylon fibers, however, put an abrupt end to the golden years and caused world prices of abaca hemp to dive in the mid-1950s.

Coupled with the devastating infestation that started in neighboring Albay, the abaca hemp export production and trading in Camarines Sur crumbled in the 1960s and by 1972, the industry all but died.

Hundreds of hectares of abaca plantation were later cleared and planted with corn to qualify for the agrarian reform former President Ferdinand Marcos ordered through P.D. 27.

Revival efforts

Several decades later, only two of the four abaca-producing provinces in Bicol continue to produce in commercial quantities.

In 2000, Sorsogon produced 3,022 MT and Catanduanes, 14,188 MT of abaca hemp. Bicol Region slid to second abaca-producing region in the country today from the top rank position until the 1970s. It contributed 33 percent of the total national production while the Eastern Visayas, the present top producer of abaca, contributed 39 percent.

Mindanao ranked third with 27 percent of the total production in 2000.

Renewed export vitality

There is renewed hope for the industry, however, because demand has been on an upswing. This is one reason behind the cultivation of abaca hemp in provinces such as Catanduanes, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Leyte, Northern Samar, Samar, Sorsogon, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Sur and Sulu.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations projects that global consumption of abaca will increase to about 85,000 MT in 2005 from the present 75,000 MT.

At present, the Philippines earns some $80 million every year from abaca exports.

The biggest buyers are the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea.

Problems

The Philippines, however, faces stiff competition from Indonesia, which has embarked on a massive plantation program.

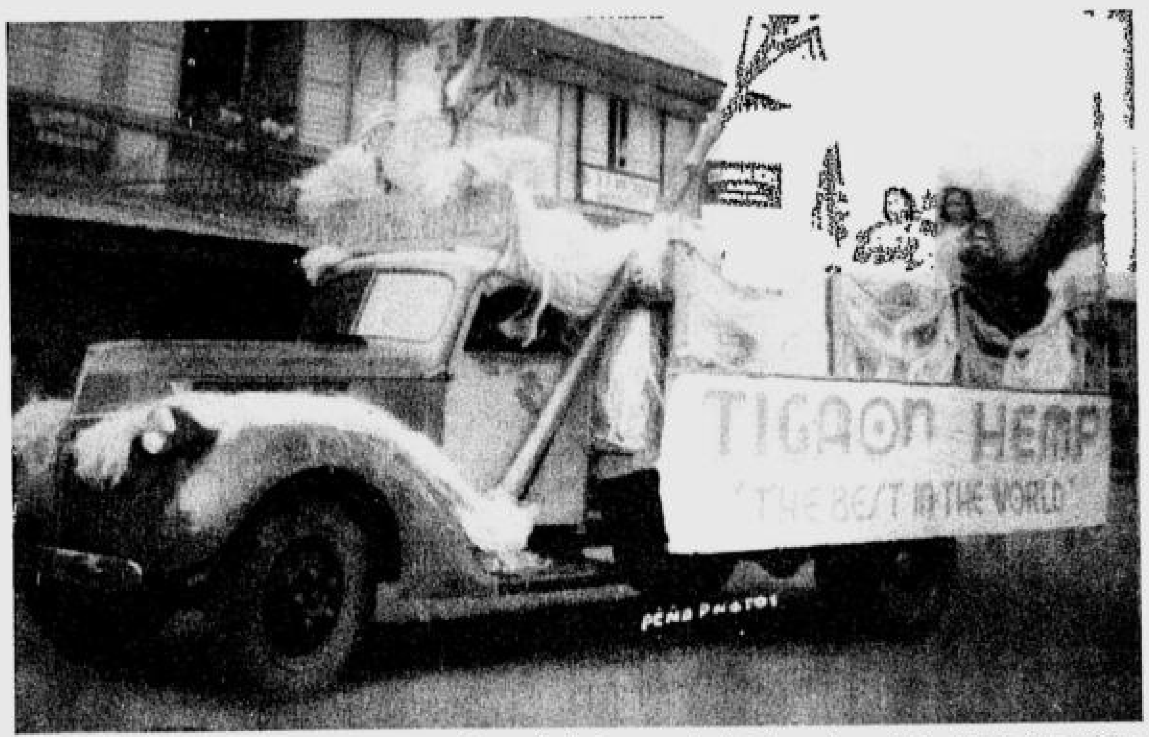
The Fida claimed that Indonesia has been reported to have pirated Filipino technology and technical personnel in its efforts to establish its own abaca industry.

The fiber authority further reported that Ecuador has expanded its abaca hectarage and is exerting all efforts to improve its abaca quality and sell cheaper Ecuadorian abaca.

Other problems confronting the abaca industry, according to Fida, include low farm income and productivity, inconsistent fiber quality, limited forward linkages and relatively high prices vis-a-vis competition.

But the opportunities and potentials for growth of the abaca industry remain.

"The abaca industry is expected to continue to grow in both the domestic and international markets. The growing concern for environmental protection and forest conservation (all over the world) has further provided limitless opportunities to natural raw materials like abaca. Being natural and considering its superior qualities over other materials, the utilization of abaca especially for industrial application is expected to strengthen," the Fida concluded.



TIGAON hemp parade: Abaca hemp was the symbol of prosperity in Tigaon town in the 1920s, the golden years of abaca industry in Bicol.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PASCUAL Leelin (left), father of Goldilocks owner-founder Milagros, flanked by an executive of British Colombia Cordage and Rope Co.

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Card firm re-enters market with new plastic

AFTER a brief self-imposed hiatus, Bankard Inc. recently re-entered the credit card arena with the launch of its new product—the myDream JCB card.

The myDream JCB card is a no-frills card that boasts of a host of exciting benefits such as the most affordable annual fee P800 among international and the lowest effective revolving interest of 2.5 percent per month—lower than the 3.35 percent to 3.5 percent charged by other credit cards in the market.

The myDream JCB Card enjoys both inter national and local acceptance.

It was launched at the Garden Tent of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel and attended by the top honchos of Bankard Inc. and JCB International led by Bankard Inc. board chair Cesar Virata, president and chief executive officer Joven Reyes, RCBC advisory board member Yvonne Yuchengco, JCB international deputy president Kunio Yoshizawa and other VIPs from JCB International and Bankard's various business partners as well as distinguished guests from the local banking industry like Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) president Allan Tumbaga, and others.

"We can now say goodbye to the nightmare of high credit card interest rates with the new myDream JCB Card. It is a breakthrough product that will change the way the public views credit cards as owning one will no longer be a burden but truly a privilege," said Bankard president and CEO Joven Reyes.

A joint product of Bankard Inc., and JCB International, Japan's leading credit card provider and an established international card brand, myDream JCB Card also boasts of other value-added benefits such as balance conversion facility that allows cardholders to convert their retail purchases to installment just by calling the myDream JCB Hotline, the flexible PEP minimum which allows the cardholder to pay only 5 percent of his total amount due; a wide payment network that makes it easy for cardholders to settle their monthly credit card bills and a 24-hour, seven days a week Customer Service Hotline at 888-1818 dedicated to assist myDream JCB cardholders in all their queries and needs.

"Bankard and JCB International came up with the straight-talking, no-frills myDream JCB Card because we want to offer the interest-saddled cardholders the best option," said JCB International deputy president Kunio Yoshizawa.

FROM left: JCB International's chief representative Sunichi Hatano, senior vice president Keiji Katayama, Bankard's vice president for merchant relations Louie Garcia and JCB Intl. senior vice president Hiroyuki Nakamura.

DDB Phil.'s creative team behind myDream JCB Card's TV commercial (from left): GI Samodio, Nadia Camit, Joey Castillo and Dax Dacayan

FROM left: Bankard chairman and RCBC director Cesar Virata and Bankard president and CEO Joven D. Reyes

FROM left: JCB International's outgoing chief representative Keiji Inaba, deputy president Kunio Yoshizawa, Bankard's branch sales division head Vicky Victoria and marketing and sales group head Irene Taylo.

SUMMER HOT PICKS

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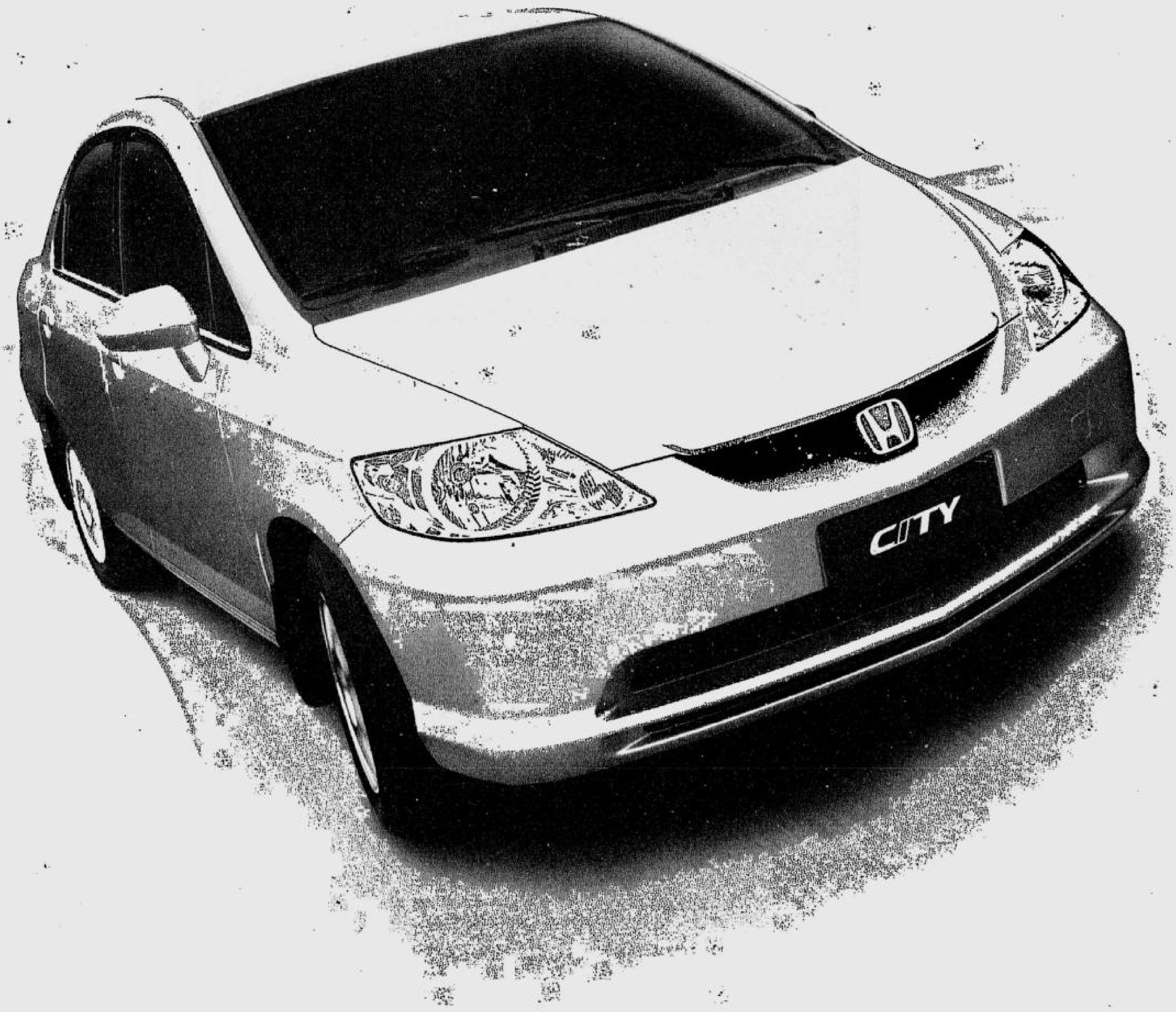

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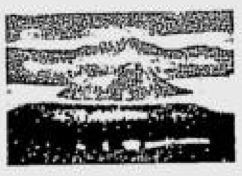

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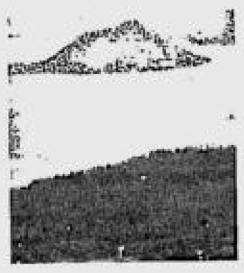

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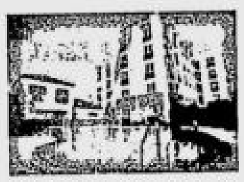

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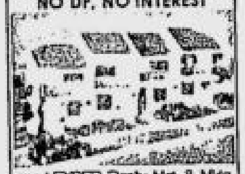

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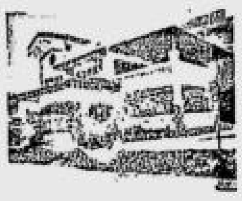

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Papa Willy

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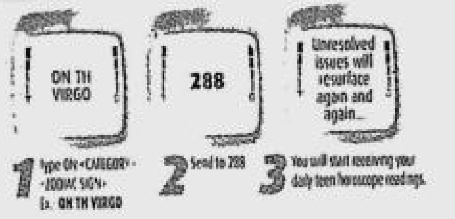
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In Loving Memory of

Asst. Director
DIEGO H. GUTIERREZ

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

on his

1st Death Anniversary

We sincerely convey our sincerest gratitude to all who condoled with us in our moments of grief, joined us during the time of vigil, sent flowers and donations, prayed with us and offered masses for the repose of the soul of our truly missed and loved **DIEGO.**

It's been a year since he joined our Creator in Heaven. Let us not mourn but rejoice for he is with the Lord.

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, May 19, 2003 at the following churches:

– **Holy Cross Parish** (Alitagtag)	5:30 a.m.
– **Society of St. Paul** (Makati)	6:15 a.m.
– **Our Lady of La Paz Parish** (Makati)	6:30 a.m.
– **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** (Quezon City)	7:00 a.m.
– **Saint Anthony Parish** (Manila)	7:00 a.m.
– **St. Joseph The Worker Parish** (Makati)	7:00 a.m.
– **Our Lady of Remedies Parish** (Malate Catholic Church)	7:00 a.m.
– **Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish** (Manila)	8:00 a.m.
– **National Shrine of the Sacred Heart** (Makati)	8:00 a.m.
– **St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine** (Manila)	8:00 a.m.

**Justice Helen S. Gutierrez
and Family**

Our Dearly Beloved

VICENTE "Ka Ente" BRIONES KALALO

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Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on May 14, 2003 at the age of 73.

He is survived by his loving wife, **Martina**; children, **Reonel** and **Jollie**, **Rodel** and **(†) Jocelyn**, **Rowel** and **Anabella**, **Rogel** and **Jacqueline**, **Rizaldy**, and **Ronalyn Bernadette**; grandchildren **Karla Mae**, **Joseph Raymond**, **Justin Ryan**, **Ronald Andrew**, **Kamille Therese**, **Karen Trixy** and **Victor Joshua Raphael**; Brothers / Sisters and Brothers / Sisters-in-Law **(†) Marcelina** and **(†) Jose**, **(†) Pedro** and **Rita**, **(†) Barcelisa** and **(†) Norberto**, **(†) Benjamin** and **Ligaya**, **Felipe** and **Carmen**, **(†) Rufina**, **(†) Atanasia**, **Conrado** and **Leonila**, **Modesto** and **Aurora**, **Catalina** and **Jesus**, **(†) Petronila**, **Asuncion**, and **Juanito** and **Cenen**; and all relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at CAPILLA DE SAN JOSE Parish Mortuary, Archdiocesan Shrine at St. Joseph, San Jose, Batangas, until 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, 2003 when his remains will be transferred to San Jose Municipal Hall. Interment will be on Thursday, May 22, 2003, at the San Jose Catholic Cemetery, San Jose, Batangas after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley,
I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod
and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

"The Lord is my strength and my shield in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God..."
Psalm 28:7

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
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"You will forever be in our hearts, Mama"

**In Memory of the
1st Death Anniversary of**

CORAZON "NENA" VEZA FADRILAN

**OF THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, PHILS.
AND SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, USA**

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 18, 2002 at the age of 80.

Her husband **Toyong** (†); children **Tina** and **Joe Dizon** (†), **Joey** and **Odette**, **Nalda**, **Jun** and **Lynn**, **Manny** and **Arlene**, **Ramon** and **Faye**, **Ed** and **Sandi**, **Leo** and **Bess**, **Veronica Jean** and **Nestor Cervania**, **Bobby** and **Tess**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered today in the following churches:

1.	**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH**, STA. MESA HEIGHTS, Q.C.	7:00 AM
2.	**MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH**, BROADWAY, Q.C.	8:00 AM
3.	**ST. JAMES CHURCH**, AYALA ALABANG	8:00 AM
4.	**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**, ESPAÑA, Q.C.	9:00 AM
5.	**MARY THE QUEEN CHURCH**, GREENHILLS	10:00 AM
6.	**STO. DOMINGO CHURCH**, QUEZON AVENUE	11:00 AM
7.	**CHRIST THE KING**, GREENMEADOWS, Q.C.	11:30 AM
8.	**SANCTUARIO DE SAN JOSE**, GREENHILLS	6:15 PM

EN MEMORIA DEL SEGUNDO ANIVERSARIO DE LA MUERTE DEL

SR. DON JOAQUIN M. CARRIÓN, SR.

(3 de Febrero 1913 - 18 de Mayo 2001)

Misas y rezos seran celebradas en las siguientes iglesias:

Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church Merville, Parañaque	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist Parish Church Moonwalk, Parañaque	6:30 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.	6:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati	6:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.
Minor Basilica of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Binondo, Manila	7:00 p.m.
National Shrine of Our Lady of **Perpetual Help**, Baclaran, Parañaque	6:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Church Pasay Road, Makati	12:30 p.m.
St. James Parish Church Ayala Alabang Village	8:00 a.m.
St. Jerome Church Alabang Town Center	6:30 a.m.
Parish of the Resurrection B.F. Homes, Parañaque	5:30 a.m.
Mary the Queen Church Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.	6:00 a.m.
St. Alphonsus de Liguori Magallanes Village, Makati	5:00 p.m.
St. Joseph the Worker Church Dian St., Palanan, Makati City	5:30 a.m.
Grave site, Manila Memorial Sucat, Parañaque	11:00 a.m.

Te recuerdan cariñosamente, tu esposa, hijos, hijas, nietos, nietas, u demas familiares y ruegan al Señor por tu eterno descunso.

Governor Mila Tan and The Provincial Government of Samar regret to announce the death of the beloved

TOMAS ONG RICALDE, MD., M.P.H.

**November 18, 1923 – May 16, 2003
Provincial Health Officer, Province of Samar, 1966-1980
Governor, Province of Samar, 1976-1986**

and condole with

his spouse, **Alfreda Tan**, and his children and in-laws, **Pelagio** and **Juliana Rodriguez (†)**, **Lesmes** and **Lourdes San Jose**, and **Tomas Jr.** and **Josephine Ramos**, and his grandchildren and in-law, **Rosario** and **Rodelio Bito**, **Regina**, **Rebecca**, **Rowena** and **Rafael**; **Elizabeth** and **Thomas**; and **Dorothy** and **Joseph** and his great grandchild, **Juliana Bito** and his living sisters, **Maria Figueroa** and **Sister Simeona, O.S.B.** and all his relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Park Viewing Chapel, Marikina City and will be cremated on May 21, 2003, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**
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Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.

From the family of the late

ROLANDO V. CRUZ

October 24, 1937 - May 6, 2003

Rolly's bereaved wife **Cathy** and children **Jundy**, **Roselle** & **Mike Echavez**, **Bong**, and **Ron**; grandchildren **Mikee** and **Jiggy**; and his sister **Remy**, request family & friends to continue praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

To my ABS-CBN Family

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free, I'm following the path God has laid, you see.
I took His hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work or play.

If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, oh yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee, God wanted me now; He set me free.
I won't be far away, for life goes on, so if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear all my love around you, soft and clear.

Thank You and Farewell.....

Rolando V. Cruz

October 24, 1937 – May 6, 2003

NORMITA "NORIE" DAWANG

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 17, 2003 at the age of 61.

Her loving husband **JUN**; children **SHEILA & JUN, DANBOY & MIA, LOY**; grandchildren **TROY, PICO, KAI, ALY & ANJULI**; mother **FELICIANA**, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park Chapels in Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 21, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. Only goodness & love shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalms 23:1-6)

DRA. HILARIA ANGELES DE JESUS, DDM (UP, 1947)

of Orani, Bataan, Parañaque and Las Piñas City

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on May 15, 2003 at the age of 88.

Her children **ROSALINDA, LORRAINE, ALICIA & MELVIN (†)**; her sons-in-law **RENATO KAGAYUTAN, VICTOR ABAINZA & ANSARI PANDAPATAN**; grandchildren **KATHLEEN JOY, KARLENE, RENEELYN, KATE, KARL MARC, ERIKA & ALLEN**; her brother **EXEQUIEL R. ANGELES**, nieces, nephews, request your prayers during this time of our bereavement.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City – (St. Joseph Chapel).

Interment will be on Thursday, 22 May 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the necrological service scheduled at 9:00 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

Precious in the Sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints – **Psalm 116:15**

EBERT "TOTOY" ESPINAS SAMSON

was called home to the Lord
on May 16, 2003 at the age of 50.

His loving wife Yetyet; his children Mark and Fatima, Scot & Kim; mother Luz Espinas Samson; sister Cynthia and Mario; brothers Domingo, Jr. & Mel, Joseph and Nica, Ray and Heidi, Cyril Antonio and Arlene, Cecil Antonio and Nanette; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Wednesday, May 21, 2003 right after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Restituto A. Acopio (Tito So)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 16, 2003 at the age of 53.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. 8 p.m. daily Masses will be heard on May 18, 19, 20, and at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21.

Interment will follow on Wednesday, May 21 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of

EUGENIA PAEZ AMPIL

who joined her Creator on April 2, 2003

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude
to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers
and cards of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended
the funeral Mass and interment rites,
and all those who condoled with us
in our hour of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

FROM THE FAMILY OF

SERGIO 'Serg' SANTOS DELA CRUZ

September 9, 1938 – May 6, 2003

of Caloocan and Baguio City

wish to express their gratitude to all those who shared their grief, offered Masses, prayers and flowers, visited them and kept vigils, spoke words of comfort or quietly kept them company and strength in their most difficult moments.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

† OWEN QUESADA DAILO

Died on May 16, 2003 at the age of 62.

His body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels in Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 20, 2003 at the Paete, Laguna Catholic Cemetery after the Holy Mass at St. James Catholic Church, Paete, Laguna.

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
CAROLINA BUITIZON DIAZ	May 19, 2003		Holy Gardens Valley Memorial Park, Antipolo City	Chapel A Arlington Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City
ROBERTO J. SISON SR.	May 18, 2003	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal	#168 Col. Guido St., Angono, Rizal
JOSE MELVIN DG. BAMBA	May 20, 2003	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Chapel A, Angono, Rizal
MELANIA P. TORRES	May 18, 2003	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Mem. Park, Calamba City	278 Mayapa, Calamba City

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appointed
time for
everything,
and a time
for every
affair
under the
heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

PRICILLA "PIXIE" GELLADA BARRIETA

June 13, 1965 – April 26, 2003

Her bereaved husband **JOHNNY**, parents **PETE & PAT GELLADA**; brothers **Philip, Jun, Paul & Toto**; sister **Nene** sadly miss their "pangga" although her memories will live forever.

Interment will be today May 18, 2003 at the Christ the King Memorial Park, Ungka, Jaro, Iloilo City after the 3:00 PM mass at the St. Joseph the Worker Church, San Isidro, Jaro, Iloilo City.

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

ANUNCIACION M. IMBANG

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 17th of May 2003 at the age of 86.

Her loving children Filmore, Ofelia, Amelia, Hector, Max, Filomeno Jr., & Florence; in-laws and all her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, St. Catherine Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at Golden Haven Memorial Park, Las Piñas City. The date will be announced later.

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me."
John 14:6

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone No. 925-2401 to 50

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting contractors to participate in the biding for the replacement of peripheral glass windows at the Hospital Building. The following are the registration requirements needed:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Legal requirements
   - Current holder of at least Medium A under Building and Industrial Plant Classification - Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)
   - Sole proprietorship (Filipino Citizen)
   - Partnership (at least 75% belongs to Filipino Citizen)
   - Corporation (75% of Outstanding Capital Stocks belong to Filipino Citizen)
3. Completed largest similar contract or on-going similar contact ≥ 50% of ABC
4. Contractor's Performance Evaluation System (CPES) rating and/or certificate of completion and owners acceptance

DESCRIPTION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
Replacement of Peripheral Glass Windows of Hospital Building	P11,623,893.54	P11,623.89

Source of Funding : PHC FUNDS
Terms of Payment : It shall be based on the provision of the contract as attached in the Terms of Reference.

The lists of eligibility requirements will be issued at Bids and Awards Secretariat (BAC), Purchasing Division, PHC, Basement, MAB, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 28, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at 922-0574.

The agency reserves the right to reject any & all bids or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officer or employees of the agency or the BAC & any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders & third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bid received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided in their E.O. 40 IRR pertaining to the substance of a bid.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman BAC

(PDI - May 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2003)

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Deadline of materials is on May 23, 2003. Please send all materials in jpeg format.

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☐ 1 Full Page (height: 30 cm. width: 23 cm.) PhP 54, 000.00
☐ 1/2 Page (height: 15 cm. width: 23 cm.) PhP 27, 000.00
☐ 1/4 Page (height: 15 cm. width: 11.5 cm.) PhP 13, 500.00
☐ 1/8 Page (height: 7.5 cm. width: 11.5 cm.) PhP 6, 750.00

* Note: EARLY BIRD SPECIAL – Less 10% to road show participants or to those who sign up on or before May 15, 2003. For payments, please make all checks payable to Web Philippines, Inc.

WEDDING SUPPLIER DIRECTORY PAGE
☐ Supplier Listing (5 cm. X 3 cm.) PhP 1, 600.00 (will contain Name of Company, Contact Person, Address, and Contact Information. Should you wish to include logo/photo, just avail ☐ additional 5 cm. X 3 cm. space).

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MANILA CAMPUS

Position	Qualifications
Chair Marine Engineering Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree or with at least 15 units in Master's and with appropriate Professional License, with shipboard experience, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time
Chair, Humanities & Social Sciences Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree required for at least bachelor's degree, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching experience and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Chair, Physical Education Dept.	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree required for at least bachelor's degree, preferably with at least 3 years of satisfactory teaching experience and 2 years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Head, Guidance & Counseling Office	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, with at least 3 year related work experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Guidance Counselor	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, with at least 1 year related work experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
Electrical Project Consultant/ Supervisor	Graduate of BS Electrical Engineering, licensed Professional Electrical Engineer, with at least 5 years related work experience, good written and oral communication skills, 30-35 years old
Faculty Members Architecture Accountancy Chemical Engineering Civil & Sanitary Engineering Computer Engineering Computer Science Electrical Engineering Electronics & Communications Engineering English Filipino Marine Engineering Marine Transportation Mathematics & Physics Mechanical Engineering Physical Education Social Sciences	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time / part time
Volleyball Coach	Degree holder who specializes on the different fields of Sports, with at least 3 years related work experience, can design a training program for his team, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character
Badminton Coach	Degree holder who specializes on the different fields of Sports, at least certified coach in Badminton, with at least 3 years related work experience, can design a training program for his team, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply personally with their resume, ID picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
363 P.Casal St., Quiapo, Manila
Tel. 734-3631

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

JOB VACANCIES

QUEZON CITY CAMPUS

Position	Qualifications
Head Office of Student Affairs	Holder of a Master's Degree in Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, Educational Management, Educational Planning or any other related field, with at least five (5) years satisfactory teaching experience in the tertiary level and at least three (3) years of satisfactory administrative or managerial experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Director Student Personnel Services	Holder of a Master's Degree, with adequate administrative and managerial competence in handling student matters, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Chair Physical Education	Holder of an appropriate Master's Degree, preferably with at least three (3) years of satisfactory teaching experience and two (2) years of satisfactory managerial experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computor literate
Guidance Counselor	Holder of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, Psychology or any related field, preferably with one (1) year related work experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Electrical Project Consultant / Supervisor	Graduate of BS Electrical Engineering, licensed Professional Electrical Engineer, with at least five (5) years related work experience, willing to work beyond the required work hours and on full time basis, knowledgeable in other work aside from his field of specialization, good written and oral communication skills, 30-35 years old
Faculty Members : Accountancy & Commerce Architecture Chemical Engineering Civil & Sanitary Engineering Computer Engineering Computer Science/IT/IM Electrical Engineering Electronics & Communications Engineering Industrial Engineering Marine Engineering Mechanical Engineering Mathematics & Physics Physical Education English Filipino Social Sciences	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time/part time
Network Specialist	Holder of any Computer related Bachelor's Degree, has experience in Network Structure and design for voice/data, knowledge and experience in implementing ASP model is an advantage, with technical documentation/web design skills, can operate and administer major networking operating system, can configure routers, knowledge and experience in check point administration, knowledge in wireless connection, with at least three (3) years related work experience, good written and oral communication skills
Training Assistant	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Guidance & Counseling, or any Behavioral Sciences, good oral and written communication skills, of good moral character, computer literate, single, female
Librarian	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science, with appropriate professional license, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate
Accounting Clerk	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, good oral and written communication skills, of good moral character, computer literate
Computer Laboratory Software Specialist	Holder of Computer related Bachelor's degree, preferably with strong knowledge in operating systems, with knowledge in specialized engineering software, network connection, IP addressing and other network protocols, at least one (1) year related work experience, good moral character, proficient in oral and written communication
ECE Laboratory Technician	Holder of Bachelor's degree in ECE/EE or Electronics Technology, with at least one (1) year related work experience, good in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply personally with their resume, ID picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
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PROJECT MANAGER

The Tasks

Ensures effective accomplishment of objectives; Manages the daily operations; Establishes a seamless connection between the supply and demand side of the project; Promotes the project both to prospective volunteer companies and Medium and Small Enterprises (MSEs) clients; Develops an effective communications and marketing program; Supervises, coaches and monitors the performance of project staff; Manages the budget for the project.

The Requirements

A graduate of Business Management; Must have had considerable exposure to small business management and operations; Expertise in Business Development Service (BDS) strategies; Familiarity with industry sectors or clusters where SMEs prevail; Possesses skills in analyzing and diagnosing small businesses' problems; Maintains strategic alliances with broad network of SME-oriented organizations; Familiarity with volunteering and volunteering programs; Excellent leadership, interpersonal and communication skills; Willing to travel domestically.

AREA MANAGER

The Tasks

Promotes the project among prospective Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs); Identifies and recruits MSE clients; Diagnoses MSE clients' operations and problems to determine need for volunteer advisor; Generates Corporate Volunteers for Enterprise Development (CVED) applications by assisting MSE clients on the filling out the application; Orients MSE clients regarding handling of Volunteer advisors; Gathers information on the industry sectors covered by CVED and makes these available,to MSEs and volunteers; Networks with the different players and stakeholders in the sector in their area of operations; Manages the process of deployment of volunteers in their areas including monitoring of assignments in progress and following through the workplan agreed between the advisor and MSE client; Provides logistical support to the volunteers if needed; Prepares the necessary reports (e.g. Program Officer assignment evaluation report).

The Requirements

A graduate of Business Management; With strong orientation and in-depth knowledge of the milieu of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) acquired by working with the sector for some 5-7 years; Must have some business acumen; Expertise in Business Development Service (BDS) strategies an advantage; Possesses skills in analyzing and diagnosing small businesses' problems; With broad network of SME-oriented organizations; Excellent oral and written communication skills; Willing to travel domestically; People-oriented; Can work with very minimal supervision.

Kindly forward your resumé, copy of diploma, TOR and photo to

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

KEPCO Ilijan Corporation (KEILCO) invites all interested parties to apply for Pre-Qualification and to bid for the project listed below:

Project Name : Special Protection Scheme Installation and Commissioning
Location : Barangay Ilijan, Batangas City

Prospective bidders must be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and must conform to the following Minimum Criteria:

1. Knowledge in the software modification/re-configuration work with the following equipment/device:
    i. RTU-GE Harris (Protocols: Harris, DNP 3/0 & Sinaut;
    ii. SER – Rochester
    iii. Additional and Interfacing wiring works on equipment supplied by KOPEC, Hitachi, REOL & Siemens.
2. Direct experience in Substation and/or Switchyard construction, testing and/or commissioning.
3. Relevant experience in the installation and/or commissioning of similar Special Protection Scheme;
4. Provide Technical Expertise; and
5. Completely implement the SPS system on the specified period of time in a turnkey basis.

Interested parties must submit the following:

1. Letter of Intent; and
2. Other documents that would show compliance with the Minimum Criteria above.

Deadline of submission of documents shall be on **May 21, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted during the bidding and only those Pre-Qualified shall be invited to Bid.

For further inquiries, you may contact Mr. Hyung-Do Son, Manager of Procurement Department at 02-634-1571 local 110.

(Sgd.) Hyung-Do Son,
Manager, Procurement Dept.

(PDI – May 18, 2003)

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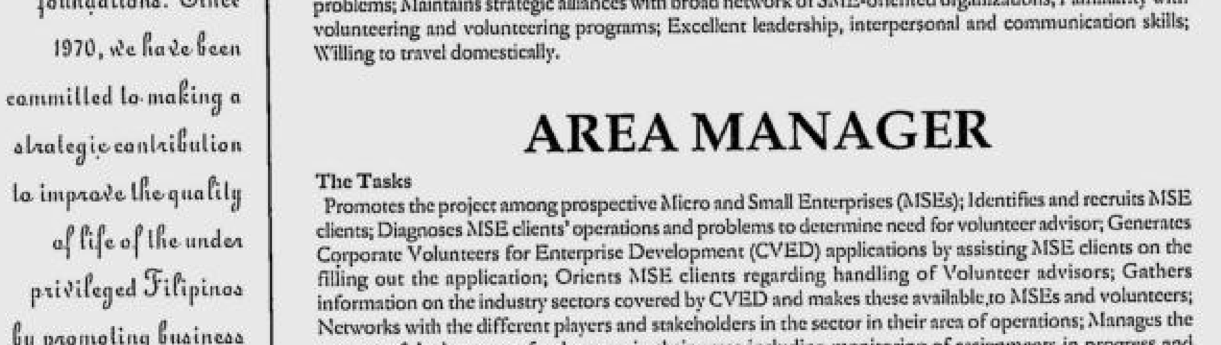

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting bidders for 6 months contract for:

DESCRIPTION	Bidding Fee
Medical/Laboratory Supplies	P1,000.00 /co.
Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)	1,500.00 /principal
Foodstuffs Supplies	500.00 /co.

Source of Funding : PHC FUNDS

The lists of registration requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on **May 30, 2003** not later than 5:00 p.m. For inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at 922-0574 ask for Noemi.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any or all bids offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to PHC. The PHC neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the PHC guarantee an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2003)

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & BID
on the following:

1. **5 years lease of Trellis Area-West** (292 sq.m.) at the Liwasang ASEAN, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
2. **5 years lease of Trellis Area-East** (292 sq.m.) at the Liwasang ASEAN, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
3. Supply of labor tools, equipment and materials for the installation of one (1) unit vertical in line multi-stage centrifugal pump

You may secure checklist of requirements from Mr. Ed Duque, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or 832-1125 loc. 1101. Deadline for Inquiry is on Tuesday, **May 29, 2003** until 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating to the undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILDAWA
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI – May 16 & 18, 2003)

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS YOU

Customs and International Trade Consultants

The world of international trade, including market access, tariff reform, liberalization and trade remedies is in one of its most interesting phases, not only in the Philippines, but also in the Asia-Pacific region. Anyone interested in this field of business consulting should find themselves drawn to the opportunity being presented.

Our international customs and trade practice deals with projects including valuation of imported goods, duty relief, duty preference, trade remedies and legal restructuring to ensure our clients are duty efficient across the supply chain. You need specific knowledge of customs law and business procedures, as well as a broad knowledge of customs and international trade issues gained in any of the following: finance, law, government service or cross-border trade. You should understand how these issues affect business, and have the ability to present complex issues clearly and concisely. You must also bring a capability to develop and implement practical solutions against tight deadlines combined with the ability to work with initiative, independently. Ideally, you will also have practical IT skills and working knowledge of e-commerce and its application to business. We are looking for skills and knowledge or a demonstrated ability and potential to acquire these quickly. Fluency in both written and spoken English and Tagalog is essential.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, being an Employer of Choice, offers a wealth of opportunities for the successful candidates. Our substantial investment in training and development will keep you on the cutting-edge of management thinking and the global trading environment. Plus, there is excellent opportunity for career advancement aligned with your own career aspirations. A comprehensive and attractive salary and benefits package will be offered.

If you are ready to define excellence and shape the future of business, please send / fax / email your resume before 9 May 2003 to:

**PricewaterhouseCoopers
WMS (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.
Philippine Branch Office
29th Floor, Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
1226 Makati City
Philippines**

**Fax: + 63 2 885 0535
E-mail: wms.hr@sg.pwc.com**

*** Only short-listed candidates will be notified.**

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Worldtrade Management Services

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NURSES (RNs) WANTED

FOR FLORIDA AND U.S. HOSPITALS

CGFNS PASSERS REGISTER IMMEDIATELY

NURSES (RNs with minimum 3+ years experience) NEEDED FOR:

**Intensive Care Unit • Critical Care Unit • Open Heart • Med/Surg
Emergency Room • Operating Room • Telemetry • Labor & Delivery**

We seek **qualified English speaking nurses** for healthcare institutions throughout the U.S. Immediately hiring CGFNS passers and RNs awaiting CGFNS results. Also assisting nurses in passing CGFNS and acquiring all necessary exams & certificates.

Qualified applicants will be interviewed for placement upon review of their resumé.

Contact: **Marcy Goldman,** International Nurse Recruiter
MEDCONNECT
E-mail: Medconn@aol.com FAX: + (561) 333-8558

IT CROSSINGS - MANILA, INC., a subsidiary of a U.S. based insurance software company is in need of a:

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

The Job:
The individual will be translating technical and end user documentation and screens from English into Japanese. Also, he/she will be asked to assist in marketing and sales activities as the translation progresses.

Requirements:

- Candidates should have an extensive experience in translating English to Nipponggo
- Candidates should possess fluency both in oral and written English
- Life insurance background is preferred
- Must be a computer literate

Competitive remuneration packages awaits qualified candidates. To apply, forward your resumé to:

**THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 5-3 Net One Center
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax No.: 815-4931**

A Finishing/Interior Contractor has vacancy for the following position:

Civil Engineers/Architects

Qualifications:

Licensed with 3 years experience in Interior/Architectural construction; highly knowledgeable in Construction Supervision and Implementation. At least 25-35 years old. Apply in person. Bring your resumé.

**Multi Development & Construction Corp.
1125 Antipolo St., Rizal Village, Makati City**

A fast growing public relations company with clients from various industries is in URGENT need of a highly motivated and committed individual to be part of a dynamic team.

WRITER

- Must possess flexible writing style
- Familiar with current events
- Must have nose for news
- Must have sense of urgency and can work under pressure
- Eager to learn and willing to work beyond office hours
- Previous business and news writting experience is an advantage
- Graduate of a four year course, preferably BA Journalism or Mass Communication

Interested applicants may send their resume to:

**Full Circle Communications,
14th Floor, Pacific Star Bldg.
Makati Avenue cornerBuendia, Makati City
or email at info@fullcircle.com.ph**

AUCTION

CONTRACTORS PLANT; FORKLIFTS; MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT; COMPRESSORS; GENERATORS, ETC

IN OVER 300 LOTS INCLUDING: -

CONTRACTORS PLANT - SUMITOMO S160FA Rubberized Shoe Backhoe Excavator; NAGAOKA Roller Compactor; Backhoe Bucket
FORKLIFTS - TOYOTA 1.5 Tons, MITSUBISHI 1.4 Tons Forklift Trucks
MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - TOKAI 150 Tons Hydraulic Double Action Press; SHINABAWA 20 Tons Pneumatic Power Press; MITSUBISHI Manual Press Brake (6ft); Metal Shearing Machine (4ft); DENGENSHA 35KVA Spot Welders; AMADA VERNET Multiple Bar Cutter; Twin Milling Machine; DO ALL Metal Band Saw; MIYAMOTO Internal Grinder; OGURA G9-66 6" Pipe Threader; Lapping Machine, etc.
COMPRESSORS - DENYO 180/32 CFM Diesel; AIRMAN 25 CFM Rotary, etc.
GENERATORS - YANMAR 4 KVA 110V, HONDA 4 KVA 110V
MISCELLANEOUS - STAL 60 Ton 165 HP Refrigeration Unit; Concrete Mixer; Heavy Duty Pressure Washer; MITSUBISHI Mini Cab; Arc Welding; Mig Welder; 40 Hp Submersible Pumps; Electric Motor; Blower; Air Compressor; Rotary Cable; Planer, Jointer; 6" Bench Vise; Grinder; Chain Block; Hoist; Hand Tractor; Stainless Steel Tank; PANEX-E Dental X-Ray; SANKO Hardness Testers; Fire Extinguishers; Oxygen Tanks; Pipe Threader; Mechanical Bar Cutter, etc.

**AT: GREAT LAKES COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE
#56 SCOUT MADRINAN, QUEZON CITY
AUCTION DATE: TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2003 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: MONDAY 19TH MAY 2003
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP20,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)**

HENRY BUTCHER
GoIndustry

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jolliland Bldg., 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-852 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9607
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following persons are hereby notified of their overdue payments on their installments for the purchase of the following real estate properties, namely:

NAME	PROPERTY	PAYMENT(S) DUE
Rosalinda Fernandez	Neopolitan, PI B121 L18 TCT#36403	3,846,458.86
John/Leriza Calalang	Neopolitan, PIV B37 L7 TCT# N-193917	6,108,456.60
Adorable Paner/Ronald Villasenor	Neopolitan, PVII B205 L7 TCT#37837	6,684,468.52

The above-named-persons are hereby given a grace period of two (2) months from publication of this notice within which to pay the above-mentioned sums to DBH Development Corporation at the 6th Floor, Renaissance Tower D, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Failure to pay the above amounts shall result in the cancellation of the Contracts to Sell by DBH Development Corporation.

(PDI-May 18, 2003)

A US based IT company urgently needs the following as part of its on-going expansion.

WEB DESIGNERS/ CARTOON ANIMATORS

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in COE, ECE, Fine Arts or any IT related fields.
- 1-2 yrs. working experience in Web Developing and Graphic Design.
- Basic knowledge in Javascript, CSS and FTP
- Proficient in Photoshop & Dreamweaver is a must.
- Possess excellent creative skills in graphic design, lay-out and animation.
- Knowledge in 2D, 3D and Cartoon animation is a plus.
- Must have an excellent command of oral and written English skills.
- Must submit a sample web portfolio (required).
- Must be willing to work on shifting schedules.
- Proactive, trainable and a team player.
- Male, at least 22 yrs. old.

Please apply personally or email your updated resumé with your latest 2x2 picture at:

TULIN ONLINE, INC.
Unit 802, 8/F The Centerpoint Building
Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 635-7805; Fax No. 635-6956
Email Address: raymund@tulinonline.com

A US based IT company urgently needs the following as part of its on-going expansion.

ASST. SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of Computer Science, ECE, COE or any IT related course
- At least 3 yrs. managerial experience in Linux and Windows NT systems administration
- With "hands-on" management style, innovative and a self-starter.
- Previously or currently employed in an ISP or Web Hosting company.
- With strong leadership and good communication skills.
- Male and at least 23 yrs. old.
- Willing to work permanently at night shift and be on-call including holidays.

We offer very competitive compensation packages, excellent career growth opportunities and trainings for those qualified.

Please apply personally or email your applications at:

TULIN ONLINE, INC.
Unit 802, 8/F The Centerpoint Building
Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 635-7805; Fax No. 635-6956
Email Address: raymund@tulinonline.com

Athena Body & Beauty Products

WANTED

SALESLADY & RECEPTIONIST

Experienced & Inexperienced
Bring Biodata after 11:00 a.m. to
**G/F Estuar Bldg., 41 Timog Avenue,
Quezon City
Tel. No. 374-7011 to 13**

WANTED INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

- M/F, 21-30 years old
- IE graduate
- w/ at least 1 year relevant experience in garment
- computer literate

Apply in person at:
#20 1st Avenue, Bagumbayan, Tagig, M.M.
Tel. # - 837-2063 to 66 Loc. 112
Look for: Vangie Ciete
KPSC Dept.

Pasig-based Law Firm requires

LAWYERS

for immediate hiring

Preferably graduates of U.P. or Ateneo, with 3 to 5 years experience
Interested applicants may submit their resumés and transcript of records to
P.O. Box 13135
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are a growing Company in Fashion Design and we are in need of:

SAMPLE MAKER - All around (polo, jeans, jackets, Blazer)
MARKETING MANAGER
MERCHANDISER/DESIGNER - Innovative, Up to date in Fashion
GRAPHIC ARTIST - Creative, Computer literate

Send your comprehensive resumé and Transcript of Records to:

MULTITUDE CONCEPTS CORPORATION
33 Panalturan St., Banawe Ext., Quezon City
Tel. No. 365-0593 look for Emy

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male/Female 23-30 yrs. old
- 2 yrs. selling experience
- College level
- Good people skills

TVSTYLE VIDEO
Tel. # 834-0526/551-1846
Look for **Carmen** or **Arni**

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

International Publishing Company requires the following:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (M)

- Graduate in any related course
- Excellent interpersonal and Communication skills-both oral & written
- Preferably sales experience in educational Product lines
- Organized and can work with minimum Supervision

For interested applicant: Apply in person with Comprehensive resumé at:

ALLSCRIPT ESTABLISHMENT, INC.
2814 F.B. Harrison St., Violeta Court, Unit C
Pasay City or Call Tel. No.: 831-3690

UPLiFT Philippines Inc.

Urban Program for Livelihood Finance and Training, a dynamic development-centered non-government organization specialized in microfinance with community-based programs in CAMANAVA, Manila, Quezon City and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan, is looking for young and committed individuals to fill these positions:

Family Counselor (5 slots)

- At least college level
- Must be willing to work with families in the depressed areas of Caloocan and Manila
- Must be good in oral and written English
- Must be willing to undergo training

Interested applicants must first call the HR Department at 287-2420, 285-4804 or 285-4811 for instructions. Just look for Cheng, Alf or Jannet. Or e-mail your resumé with cover letter to: recruit@uplift.org.ph. Slots for accounting and other positions are also available. Applications will be entertained up to May 26, 2003.

DUALTECH CENTER

is in need of:

Electrical & Mechanical Instructors

- Electrical/Mechanical Engineer
- LET Board passer
- With at least 5 years teaching experience
- Male

Industrial Coordinator

- Engineering graduate
- with at least 5 years work experience
- with Driver's license
- Male

Please send your resumé via e-mail at dualtech@philwebinc.com

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Get your career off the ground.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

We are searching for qualified professionals to fill up the position of:

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE

FOR DERM RANGE:

☐ Female, 20 to 27 years old
☐ College degree holder, preferably in the field of Science
☐ Must be computer literate
☐ Proficient in oral and written communication
☐ Experience with a Cosmetics company is an advantage
☐ At least 2 years experience in handling derm products
☐ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

FOR ETHICAL RANGE:

☐ Male or Female, 20 to 27 years old
☐ College degree holder, preferably in the field of Science
☐ Must be computer literate
☐ Proficient in oral and written communication
☐ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

All interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, with a copy of transcript of records and 2x2 colored picture to:

**ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
W902-A Tektite Bldg. PSE Centre,
Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) invites all oil producers/suppliers of petroleum products to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PETROLEUM, OIL AND LUBRICANTS (POL)** for the AFP with an approved budget of Six Hundred Million Pesos (Php 600,000,000.00) chargeable against the FY 2003 AFP POL Budget.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **May 22, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at the Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Tender Documents shall be available during office hours starting **May 13, 2003** at the POL BAC Secretariat, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00)**. However, bidders who have secured the Tender Documents are already qualified to join the Pre-Bid Conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the Tender Documents.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the POL BAC Secretariat at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Submission of the envelopes shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on **June 02, 2003** after which the opening of bids shall immediately follow.

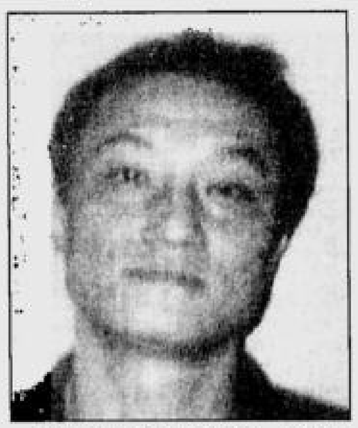
The AFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the AFP. The AFP likewise assumes no obligation for whatever expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

For more information, please call the POL BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. **913-1175** or **911-6001** loc. **5434**, or visit our website at www.logcen.com.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G. CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, AFP BAC for POL

(PDI - May 12 & 18, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



JEFFREY S. GO

JEFFREY S. GO, with last known address at c/o Golden New Horizon Co. Ltd., Bayabas, Kapisnon, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City, and whose picture appears above, has a pending Criminal Case for Violation of BP 22. There is also a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by MTCC 7, Cebu City, under Criminal Case No. 109308-R.

A monetary reward will be given to anyone who can supply any information leading to the arrest of said Jeffrey S. Go. Please relay information to Atty. FELIPE M. LANDICHO, at tel. no. (032) 256-1110 or (032) 412-4810.

(PDI – May 18, 2003)

They say

"Once A DAPper, Always a DAPper"

Calling all former officers & staff of the

development academy of the philippines

DAP is looking back & beyond on its
30th year of development work.

If you were once a part of
DAP's 30 years of building capacities
& catalyzing change.

- tell us where we can contact you so we can continue to make you a part of DAP's present & future,
- share with us for publication any good stories you have to tell about your stay in DAP, &
- give or lend us DAP pictures, documents and memorabilia (Ids, uniforms, folders, notebooks) for possible inclusion in a coffee table book &/or the anniversary exhibit.

Contact ***Zorie Ebuenga*** or ***Vilma Torres*** through:
FAX: **6335572** Tel. Nos. **6310921 to 30 local 111**
E-mail: **dap30th@dap.edu.ph**

Snail Mail:

ANTONIO D. KALAW
Senior Vice-President &
Chairman, DAP 30th Anniversary Committee
Development Academy of the Philippines
DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, 1600 Pasig City

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sorsogon
Municipality of Donsol
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

1. The government of the Philippines through the **Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)** has received a loan from **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for **Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP)**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Rural Infrastructure Components** for which the invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Donsol, Sorsogon, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified to bid for the **CONSTRUCTION OF OGOD-TRES MARIAS FARM TO MARKET ROAD.**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT
000	Mobilization/Demobilization	Lump sum	
001	Construction of Bunkhouse	32.00	Sq. M.
102	Roadway Excavation	9,168.40	Cu. M
103	Structure Excavation	99.27	Cu. M
104	Embankment	7,037.15	Cu. M
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Coarse	3,412.00	Cu. M
201	Aggregate Base Coarse	3,412.00	Cu. M
500	RC Pipe Culvert	1.00	L. S.
505	Stone	1,422.63	Cu. M.

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

1 Unit Bulldozer	-Owned
1 Unit Payloader	-Owned
1 Unit Road Grader	-Owned
1 Unit Road Roller	-Owned
2 Units Dump Truck	-Owned
1 Unit One-Bagger Mixer	-Owned
1 Unit Water Truck with Pump	-Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms Pre-C and bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders at the **Office of the Municipal Mayor, Donsol, Sorsogon from May 11 to May 24, 2003** and upon payment of non-refundable Fee of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos** (P7,500.00) for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same office address.
4. Submission of application for Pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the **PBAC Chairman, Municipality of Donsol, Sorsogon,** not later than **5:00** o'clock in the afternoon on **May 26, 2003.**
5. A pre-bid conference shall be held on **9:00** o'clock in the morning on **June 9, 2003** at the **ABC Hall, Donsol, Sorsogon.**
6. The Opening of Bids will be on **2:00** p.m. on **June 25, 2003** at the ABC Hall, Donsol, Sorsogon. No bids will be accepted later than **2:00** p.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security **(surety bond)** of 2.5 % based on the approved budget to be posted in favor of the Municipality of Donsol, Sorsogon.
7. The approved budget for this project is **SEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE AND 12/100 PESOS (7,495,335.12)**. The duration of the project is 121 calendar days. Only contractors classified as **Medium "A" & Above** by **CIAP** with appropriate classification are the subjects of this validation.
8. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for the expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of bid and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JEROME F. ALCANTARA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – May 11 & 18, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for

SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE RENOVATION OF SIXTH (6th) FLOOR SRA MAIN BUILDING
Approved Budget : Php2,023,274.75
PCAB Registration and Classification License at least Small B

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on **July 4, 2003** at the SRA Social Hall of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

Prequalification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, SRA Annex Building of the same address starting **May 19, 2003** and the deadline for submission of said requirements shall be on **May 30, 2003.**

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on **June 5, 2003.** Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php1,000.00/set.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **June 20, 2003** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m

All bids must be accompanied by a bidders bond in an amount equal to 1% of the approved budget for the contract to be bidded in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, or 1 ½% in case of bank guarantee and 2 ½% in case of Surety Bond, callable on demand, issued by a surety or insurance company duly accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, or any combination thereof, to be submitted on the opening of the bids.

For inquiries, please call:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or defect therein and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - May 18 & 25, 2003)

SALE

U.S. IMPORTED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

GOOD UNTIL MAY 31 ONLY!

**Only Php 30 to 50 each Lot Sale
High Quality and Brand New**

Available as bulk purchases
Ideal for corporate promotions
Special Offer for Back to School season
Accepted by Top Private and Montessori schools
Good for Corporate Social Responsibility Programs
Highly recommended as supplementary to basic curriculum

**For serious inquiries contact Maricel
at 817-3282; 0917-984-5610 ASAP!**

**Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Office of the Secretary
RE-INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB No. ICHSP-2003-004HP

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Integrated Community Health Services Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Health Promotion Equipment.
2. The Department of Health, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Health Promotion Equipment briefly described as follows:

Item No.	Name of Goods or Related Services	Quantity
1.	Digital Camcorder	1
2.	CD Duplicator	1
3.	Laser Printer	1
4.	Large Format Printer	1
5.	Postcript Printer	1
6.	Slide Scanner	1
7.	Zip Drive	5
8.	Camera Lighting System	1
9.	Interactive Desktop Publishing	5
10.	Multimedia Projection System	2

3. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 12 to 19, 2003	8:00-5:00	Procurement and Logistics Service
Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 20, 2003	9:00 AM	MMD Conference Room, Bldg. 25, San Lazaro Compd.
Bid Opening	May 20, 2003	9:01 AM	

4. International Shopping will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
5. A bidder may bid for any item, combination of items or all items.
6. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Document at the following addresses:
   COBAC Secretariat
   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Bldg. 26, San Lazaro Compound
   Department of Health
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
7. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders at the address above or on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (US$100.00) plus mailing fee of US$50 in the form of bank draft. Documents for overseas delivery shall be sent by surface mail or courier. No liability will be accepted for loss of late delivery.
8. Bids must be delivered to the following address on or before the scheduled deadline of submission of bids.
   The Chairperson
   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Health
   Ground Floor, Building No. 1
   Rizal Avenue, Manila
9. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of not less than Two Percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price. Prior to the Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the scheduled date at the venue above.
10. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
11. In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
12. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – May 11 & 18, 2003)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
San Juan, La Union
Tel. No. (072) 242-5907 / (072) 242-5910

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested **Private Security Agencies** to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of security services at the following installations of NFA Region I. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into lots with one province treated as one (1) lot:

PROVINCE	NO. of SG's	APPROVED BUDGET
1. Abra	6	P 679,608.00
2. Benguet	15	P 1,699,020.00
3. La Union	21	P 2,489,004.00
4. Ilocos Norte	12	P 1,422,288.00
5. Ilocos Sur	30	P 3,555,720.00
6. Eastern Pangasinan	24	P 2,844,576.00
7. Western Pangasinan	15	P 1,777,860.00

Registration/Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance at RBAC Secretariat, NFA, San Juan, La Union upon payment of P1,000.00 which is non-refundable.

Only those who have been pre-qualified by the RBAC-SS and who have paid an additional P5,000.00 as Bidding Fee shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bidding conference and the Bidding Proper. Hereunder is the schedule:

May 19-22, 2003 - Issuance of application forms for registration
May 28, 2003 (1500H) - Deadline for submission of application forms for registration
June 3-6, 2003 - Issuance of Certificate of Registration and application for Eligibility to Bid
June 17, 2003 (1500H) - Deadline for submission of application for eligibility
July 9, 2003 (1300H) - Pre-bidding Conference
July 16, 2003 (0930H) - Submission and opening of sealed bids

A Special Power of Attorney issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents on his behalf shall be required before issuance of the documents.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director and Chairman, RPBAC

(PDI - May 11 & 18, 2003)

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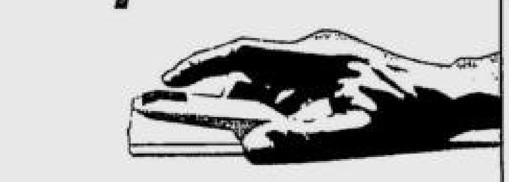

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor Aries Espinosa

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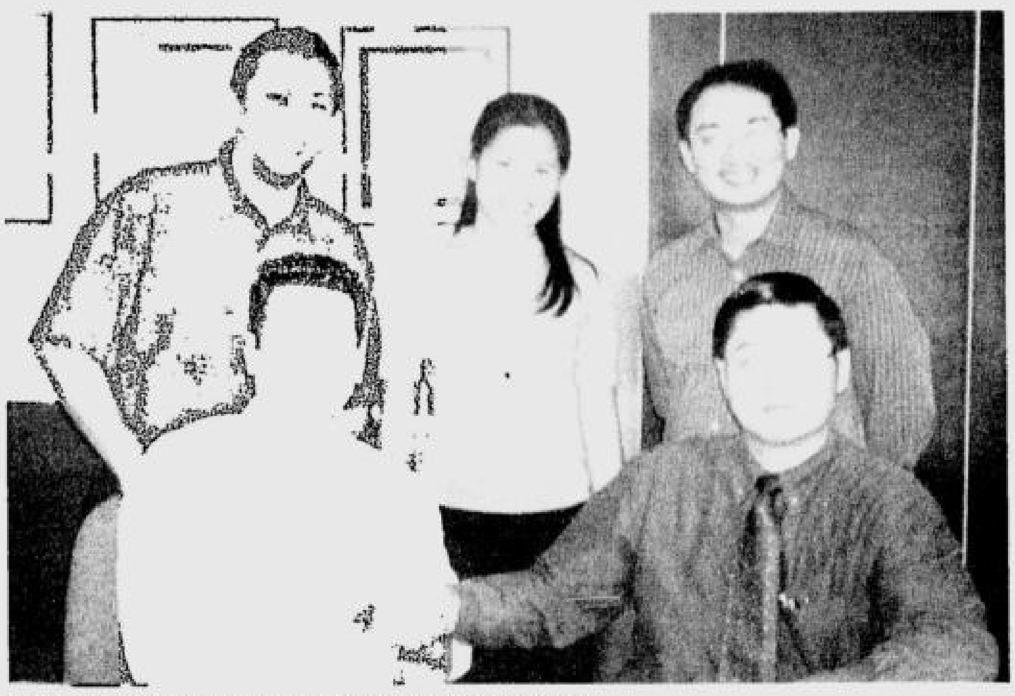

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ProductFiles

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Hot Wheels
COLLECTION

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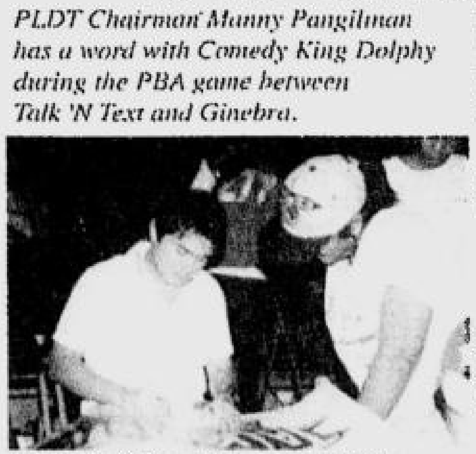

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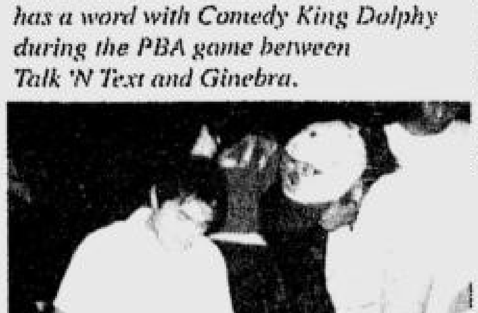

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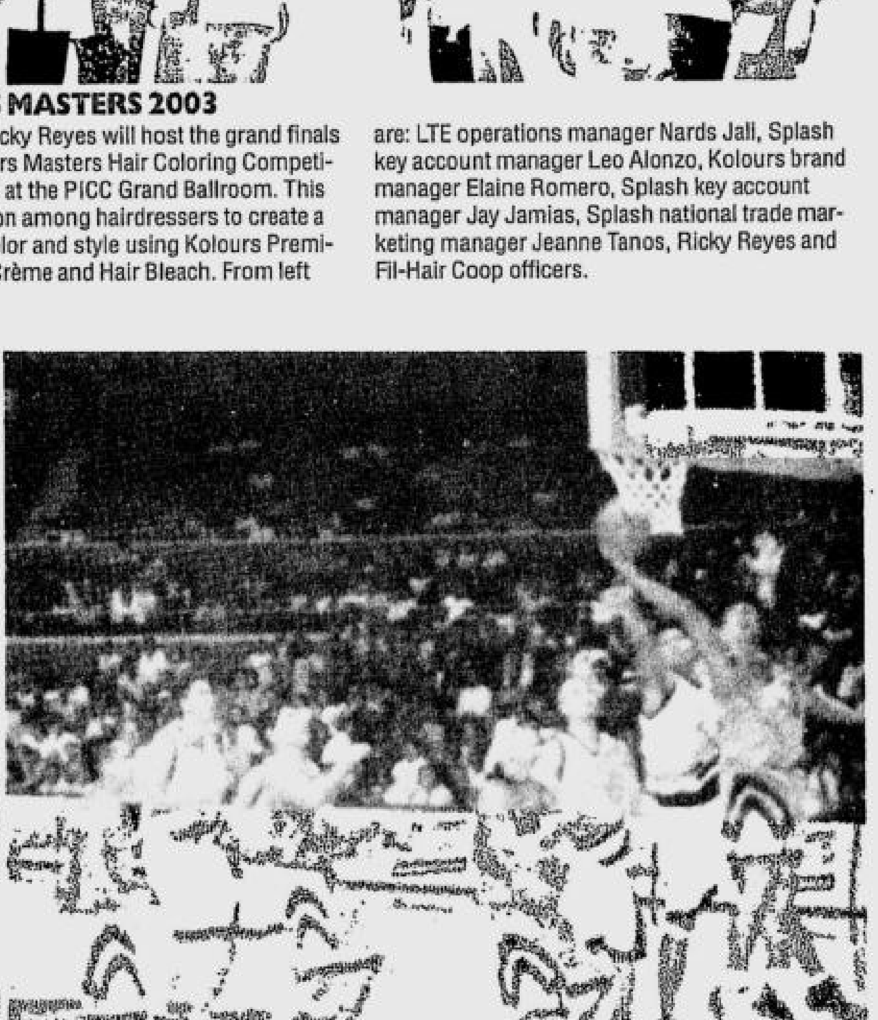

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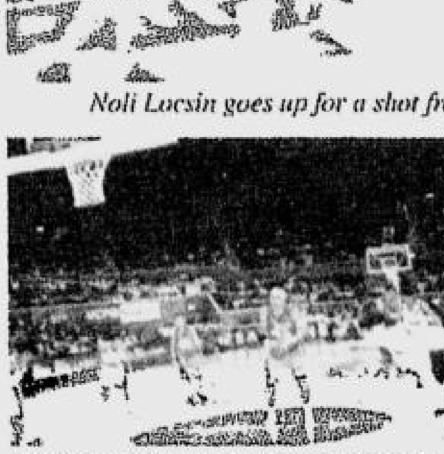

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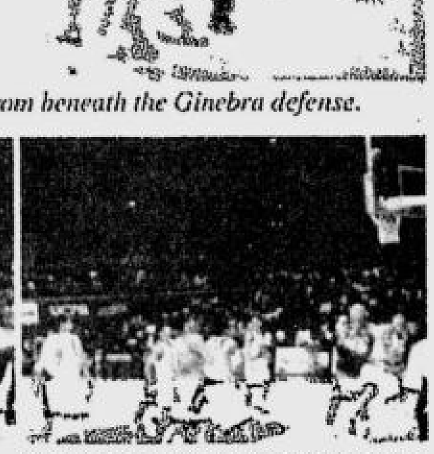

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AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1	WALANG KAPALIT	THE MATRIX RELOADED	ArtFilm THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40	THX THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED	THE MATRIX RELOADED	THE MATRIX RELOADED 2:45, 5:35, 8:25	THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 2:05, 5:00, 7:55, 10:50	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	X-MEN 2	THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20	Onstage ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT FEAT. SIDE A May 16, 17, 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS THE HOURS 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED	X-MEN 2		GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 11:45, 2:40, 5:35, 8:30, 11:25	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5		THE MATRIX RELOADED		GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05	WALANG KAPALIT
6		THE MATRIX RELOADED			
7		WALANG KAPALIT			

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3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 GOLD (DTS ES) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) X- MEN-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) THE HOURS
8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
9 WALANG KAPALIT
10 WALANG KAPALIT

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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
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(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 BAYARAN

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www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
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2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 BAYARAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BAYARAN
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
4 WALANG KAPALIT
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 X- MEN-2
2 BAYARAN

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THE MATRIX RELOADED

Center Plaza Cinema
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2 JOHNNY ENGLISH

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2
3

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2 WALANG KAPALIT
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4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
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1 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BAYARAN
5 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
6 WALANG KAPALIT
7 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 (SDDS) THE HOURS
9 (DOLBY) X-MEN 2

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2 RESERVE

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1 XEREX
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 X-MEN 2
6 (DOLBY) THE HOURS
7 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 BAYARAN
9 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 (SDDS) BAYARAN
3 (DTS) X- MEN-2
4 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 TILL THERE WAS YOU

Gotesco Ortigas
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1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DTS) X- MEN-2
4 BAYARAN
5 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED

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(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 WALANG KAPALIT

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4 RESERVE

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1 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
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4 WALANG KAPALIT
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(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1
2

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 WALANG KAPALIT

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1 TILL THERE WAS YOU
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) X-MEN 2
4 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 THE HOURS
7 KIKAY

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 WALANG KAPALIT

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1 PUNLA
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED

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1 TILL THERE WAS YOU
2 (DTS) WALANG KAPALIT
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

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1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 (DOLBY) BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU

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1 ANGER MANAGEMENT
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
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4

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3 WALANG KAPALIT

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4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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2 WALANG KAPALIT
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4 PUNLA
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3 PUNLA

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2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 PUNLA

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4 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED

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1 (DTS)
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2 X-MEN-2
3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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1 (DOLBY EX) THE MATRIX RELOADED
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2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
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8	X-MEN 2

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1	WALANG KAPALIT
2	THE HOURS
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	KIKAY
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
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7	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	X-MEN 2
10	WALANG KAPALIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	KIKAY
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5	X-MEN 2
6	WALANG KAPALIT
7	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	WALANG KAPALIT
10	THE HOURS
11	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
12	THE MATRIX RELOADED

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1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	X-MEN 2
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6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
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1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	X-MEN 2
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
6	THE HOURS
7	KIKAY
8	WALANG KAPALIT
9	WALANG KAPALIT
10	THE MATRIX RELOADED
11	TILL THERE WAS YOU
12	XEREX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	THE HOURS
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	WALANG KAPALIT
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	X-MEN 2
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM SOUTHMALL
8008888

1	THE HOURS
2	X-MEN 2
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	WALANG KAPALIT
5	KIKAY
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	WALANG KAPALIT
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	LIFESTYLES INTRA
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	X-MEN 2
4	JUNGLE BOOK 2
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	WALANG KAPALIT
7	WALANG KAPALIT
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	JUNGLE BOOK 2
2	CLOSED
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	WALANG KAPALIT
5	X-MEN 2
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	CLOSED
8	RING 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	X-MEN 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	WALANG KAPALIT
6	WALANG KAPALIT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	WALANG KAPALIT
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	WALANG KAPALIT
4	KIKAY

SM CITY DAVAO
2978998

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	X-MEN 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	JUNGLE BOOK 2
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	WALANG KAPALIT
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	JUNGLE BOOK 2
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

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1	THE MATRIX RELOADED 11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED 10:30 FS/11:00 MF/1:50/4:40/ 9:55 LFS/10:20 LMF/12:45 END

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2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	MATRIX RELOADED
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	WALANG KAPALIT
6	X-MEN 2
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	THE HOURS
9	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
10	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE

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4	THE HOURS
5	MATRIX RELOADED
6	WALANG KAPALIT
7	MATRIX RELOADED

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	X-MEN 2
2	THE HOURS
3	MATRIX RELOADED
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	MATRIX RELOADED
7	KIKAY
8	WALANG KAPALIT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	X-MEN 2
4	THE HOURS
5	BEHIND THE GREEEN DOORS
6	KIKAY
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	WALANG KAPALIT

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1	KIKAY
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	MATRIX RELOADED
4	X-MEN 2

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1	X-MEN2
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	JUNGLE BOOK 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	MATRIX RELOADED
6	MATRIX RELOADED

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	WALANG KAPALIT
6	KIKAY

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907

1	X- MEN 2
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	WALANG KAPALIT
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	WALANG KAPALIT
3	MATRIX RELOADED
4	X-MEN 2
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	JUNGLE BOOK 2

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	X-MEN 2
3	RING 2
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	WALANG KAPALIT
6	JUNGLE BOOK 2

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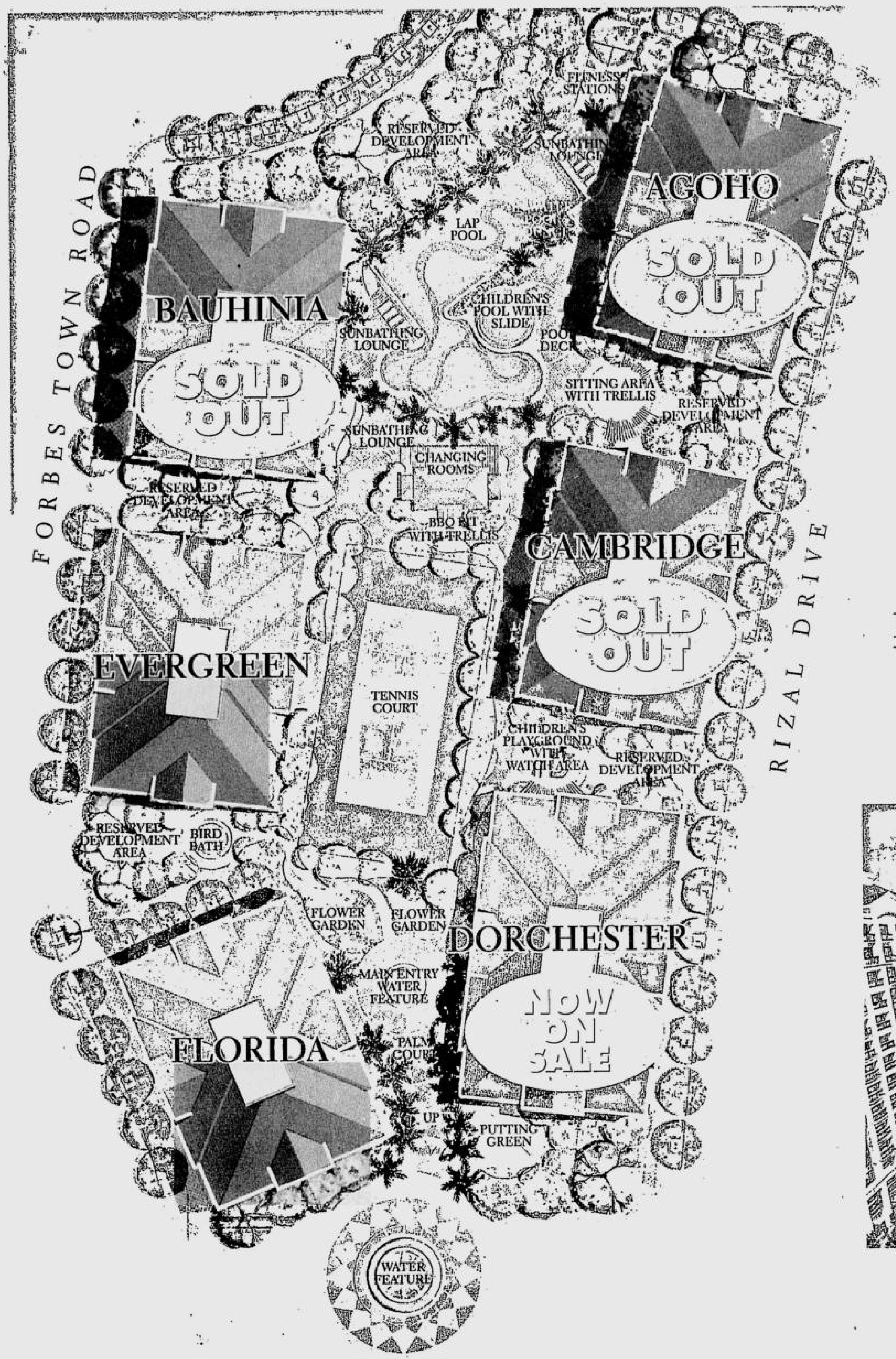
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AGOHO
SOLD OUT
LAP POOL
BAUHINIA
SOLD OUT
CHILDRENS POOL WITH SLIDE
POOL DECK
SUNBATHING LOUNGE
SITTING AREA WITH TRELLIS
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SUNBATHING LOUNGE
CHANGING ROOMS
RESERVED DEVELOPMENT AREA
BBQ PIT WITH TRELLIS
CAMBRIDGE
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EVERGREEN
TENNIS COURT
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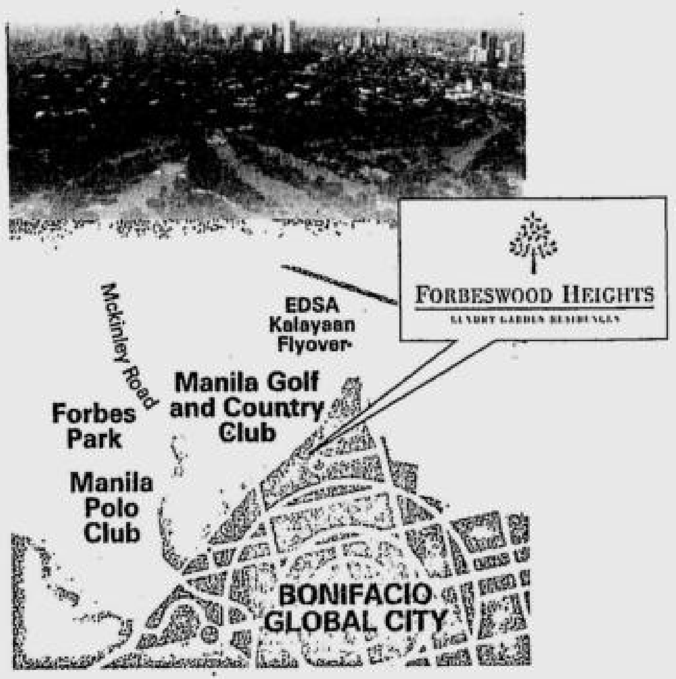
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Editor Louie C. Camino

Martin headlines Vegas series!

FILE PHOTO

By Leah Salterio

MARTIN Nievera has taken a big step toward making his dream come true.

Martin is the headliner of a month-long series at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas. Thursday night (Friday morning in Manila), he opened the series and ended the night with two standing ovations.

Martin is the headliner in the Golden Nugget showroom originally built for Ol' Blue Eyes himself, the late Frank Sinatra. The Filipino singer's name is on the Golden Nugget marquee announcing the show. He is performing four nights a week—Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets to his show are $45 (about P2,340) each.

"That's what they call it here, a 'headliner'," Martin said on the phone from his Golden Nugget hotel room hours after his opening night, when INQUIRER Entertainment called him.

The Golden Nugget website (www.goldennugget.com) also announces the Martin Nievera series, and describes the singer as "one of the world's most celebrated entertainers."

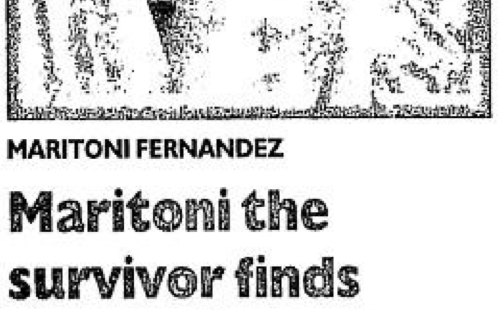
Martin's series also landed in the Los Angeles Times with a photo last Sunday. A huge billboard along The Strip, across from the Bellagio Hotel with its famous dancing fountain, displays Martin's name.

Martin has previously performed in Las Vegas, in Filipino-produced shows with fellow Filipino artists Zsa Zsa Padilla, his ex-wife Pops Fernandez and his dad Bert Nievera. This is the first time that he is doing a show in mainstream Vegas entertainment.

"I have waited 20 years and now I have realized a very important lesson," Martin said on the phone. "All big dreams start from a golden nugget. I am sure the likes of Clint Holmes, Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra would all agree. They, too, sang their firsts right here, same dressing room, same stage, same dream. Only, they were not Filipino. I am and I am damn proud to be.

"They gave me the showroom where Frank Sinatra started his singing career," he added, the excitement keeping him awake at 3 a.m.

MARTIN/ C5



MARITONI FERNANDEZ

Maritoni the survivor finds something to be happy about every day

/C7

DID YOU KNOW...

Regine Velasquez is trying her best not to cross paths these days with **Janno Gibbs'** wife, **Bing Loyzaga**, after that controversial backstage incident at the GMA 7 noontime show, "S.O.P.," where Bing created a stir and told Janno that Regine, **Jaya** and **Lani Misalucha** had "snubbed" her. The incident resulted in Janno's walkout in the middle of the show, as a result of which he was suspended indefinitely from the noontime program. Janno has not returned to "S.O.P." and even GMA 7 officials are mum as to when he will resume his hosting job.

Text the Concert Queen as she goes on the record.
people ask me how i keep fit...when im not busy, i play badminton w/ friends. i try not to eat too much fat. kaya lang, i can't resist sweets :-) i jst love halo-halo
monday
watched my son robin perform in our church. was shockd to c him sing n play guitar w/ pasion. he wrote most of d songs. i was so touchd i cried d whole tym.
wednesday
i stil get askd kung magkakatuluyan pa uli kami ni martin. frends na kami nd were finaly working tog agen. 4 now, dats impt!
friday
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Pink, Blue Soda in Fashion Week replay

PINK Soda and Blue Soda recently joined Philippine Fashion Week Summer 2003, held at the Glorietta at the Ayala Center in Makati.

The Pink Soda and Blue Soda summer collections were shown in a fashion show that also featured the special participation of Nina and the Essences Band.

The fashion show highlighted Pink and Blue Soda's fun, trendy clothes that are comfortable and classy.

The event was shown on Studio 23 last May 14 and will be replayed tonight, 8-9:30 p.m. on the Lifestyle Network.

The brands' image models are Audrey Tan for Pink Soda and Rafael Rosell IV for Blue Soda.

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& Karylle as Princess Sapphire
Directed by Audie Gemora

Ayala Center Makati
May 2 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
May 3 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
May 4 4pm, 6:30pm

Alabang Town Center
May 9 11am, 4pm, 6pm
May 10 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
May 11 4pm, 6:30pm

Ayala Center Cebu
May 23 4pm, 6:30pm
May 24 11am, 3pm, 5:30pm, 7pm
May 25 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

Ayala Malls: Because there's more

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
Ali 2	WALANG KAPALIT
Ali 3	X-MEN 2
Ali 4	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 5	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 6	THE HOURS
Ali 7	KIKAY

ARANETA COLISEUM

MAY 18	PBA GAMES
MAY 19 & 21	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAY 25	PBA GAMES
MAY 26 & 28	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
MAY 31	PBA FANS DAY

ELEPHANT WORLD

ELEPHANT SHOW
REOPENING SOON !
FUN RIDES
TAGADISCO • VIKING SHIP
START 4PM (DAILY)

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KIKAY
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	WALANG KAPALIT
B	KIKAY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA-2	KIKAY
CINEMA-3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	XEREX
CINEMA-7	BAYARAN
CINEMA-8	PINOCCHIO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-12	THE HOURS
CINEMA-14	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-15	WALANG KAPALIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

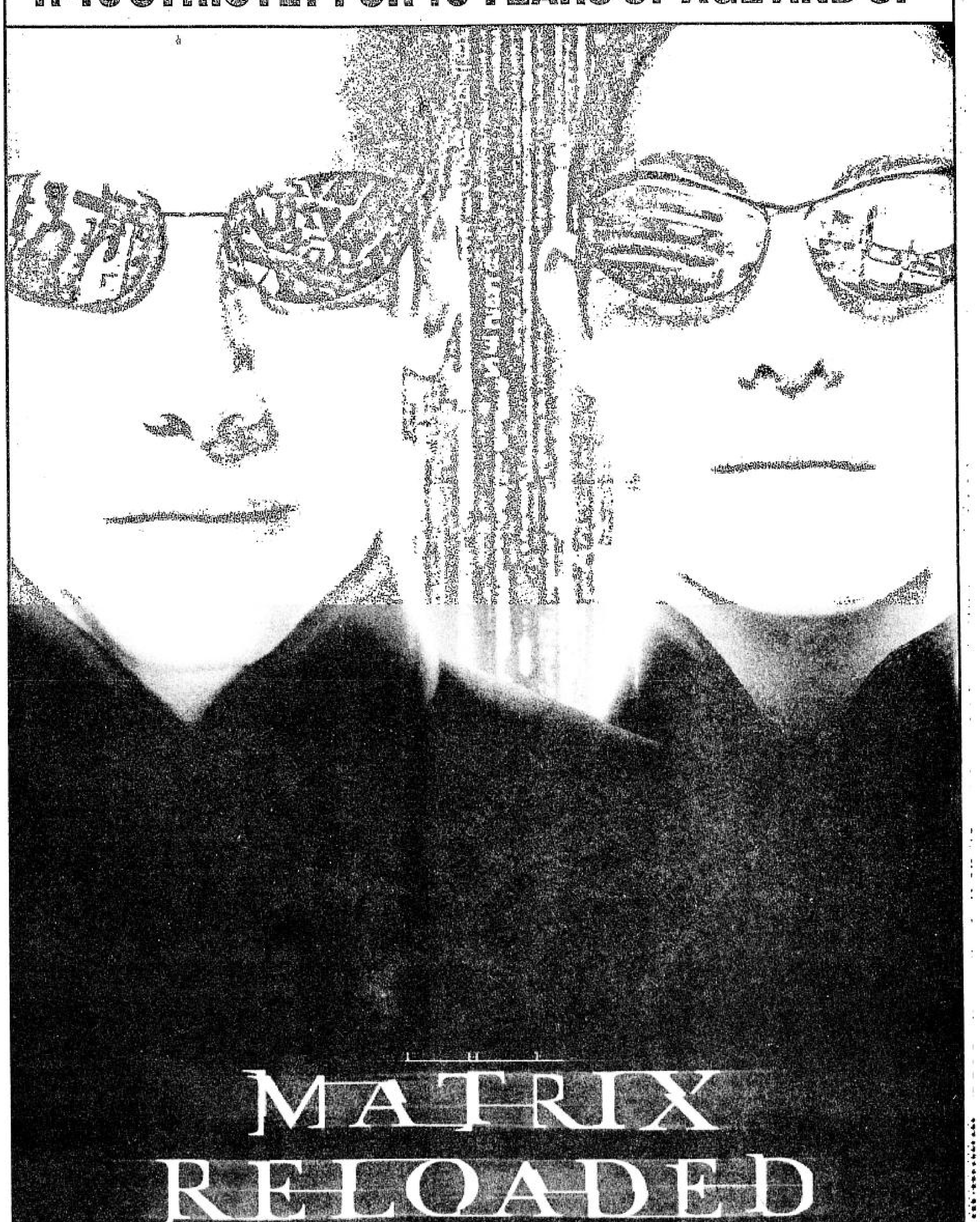
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA 2	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA 3	X-MEN 2
CINEMA 4	TILL THERE WAS YOU

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP



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Bong to decide '04 plans on his birthday

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SEN. **Ramon Revilla Sr.**, who will end his second term in the Senate next year, is convincing his son, **Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.**, to run in the 2004 elections so he can continue his dad's unfinished business as a lawmaker.

"My dad is retiring next year," Bong says. "My problem is how to say no to him. I can't just say, 'Yes, I will run.' I'm still weighing my options. I'll decide on my birthday on September 25."

Bong says that since he got out of politics in 2001 after serving as vice governor and later as governor of Cavite province, he is now enjoying his life as an actor. His family took his loss to Gov. **Ayong Maliksi** as a big blow, but the Revillas have since recovered. The family has moved out of Cavite and is now quietly living in a posh village in southern Metro Manila.

However, the Revillas felt new fears when Bong was appointed chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) and he launched his pursuit of CD pirates. In less than a year, Bong has made raids and seized nearly P1 billion worth of pirated video products, despite very limited budget support from the government.

Bong also received death threats, which is why he now moves around with a number of bodyguards.

"I don't know who my enemies are that's why I'm really careful when I move around," Bong says.

Bong's tenure is co-terminus with that of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who appointed him. This early, movie producers are said to be worried about who will replace him at the VRB and continue his campaign against piracy.

"It shouldn't be just anyone from the industry with concern," Bong says. "The new chair should also have guts."

The action star, who is the star of the GMA 7 sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap," now has "Vertud ng Putik," a follow-up to his top-grossing Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Agimat." "Vertud ng Putik" is one of the official entries in the Manila Film Festival in June.

GMA 7's case

GMA Network continues to question the apparent distortion of its signal among subscribers of SkyCable, Pilipino Cable and Home Cable. Both SkyCable and Pilipino Cable belong to the Lopez Group of Companies, which also includes ABS-CBN, GMA 7's staunchest rival.

In a comparative report culled from official data from AGB Philippines, the industry's ratings provider, GMA 7 said it discovered a striking discrepancy. From March 2002 to the first week of May 2003 (May data based on overnight ratings), comparative ratings (15-14) showed GMA 7 closing the gap with ABS-CBN among non-cabled homes in April 2003.

In December 2002, the two networks tied with an overall rating of 14 percent among non-cabled homes and again with 15 percent in January 2003.

However, cabled homes' ratings showed GMA 7's performance plunging starting in February 2003.

Last February, GMA 7 was suddenly rechanneled on SkyCable, from Channel 12 to Channel 14, without prior notification to GMA and without the permission of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). The network said it has received many complaints from cable viewers about their difficulty in getting clear pictures and sounds in GMA shows on their TV sets.

GMA 7 said it believes it has enough grounds to be alarmed and has filed a complaint before the NTC and the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City. It is now waiting for the cable companies to comply with the NTC ruling to return GMA 7 to its original channel assignment effective immediately.

BONG REVILLA. Will he, won't he?

Discovery Channel available on VCD

SHOW TIME

DISCOVERY Channel can now be viewed anytime by anyone as Magnavision Home Video acquires its rights to exclusively distribute it on video nationwide.

Initially available on VCD, dealers and buyers can choose from a variety of fully-documented topics that Discovery Channel is well-known for worldwide.

Recently, Magnavision has presented a series of exhibits at the Shangri-La Mall, Eastwood City and Ayala Center to establish public awareness on the acquisition. Busy shoppers and mallers were given a rare opportunity to see in full perspective what Discovery Channel is really all about. Most of them were surprised how exciting it can be to have a glimpse on documentaries about amazing kids, travel, adventure, health, planets, science, technology and many more.

For original copies of Discovery Channel videos, visit popular video outlets and record bars or call Magnavision Peru at 727-8755, 727-0399, 911-6229 or 911-3633.

'Beauty Plus' on 9

WOMEN of all ages love watching RPN 9's lifestyle show, "Beauty Plus," hosted by Ricky Reyes and aired on Sundays, 11 a.m. to 12 noon, with Cris Aquino as director.

Housewives take delight in watching the different segments where they learn about cooking, housekeeping, decorating and parenting.

Retired grandmothers take tips of what crafts they can indulge in to fill their idle time. Young girls learn proper grooming, less expensive beauty regimen and social graces from well-trained and experienced resource persons.

In today's episode, "Telenegosyo" presents balloon-making for all occasions.

"HBC on the Go" conducts a beauty seminar in Navotas.

"Pretty Green Stories" gives a list of herbal food supplements essential in keeping a healthy body and avoiding the killer disease SARS.

Tiffany Lynne Manor of Silang, Cavite models for Mother Ricky in the "Make-Over Magic," while Decoration 911 demonstrates how to rearrange a bedroom in answer to a letter-sender's request.

HARDCOURT BOYS
Ducks Unlimited models Ralph Rivera (left) and Miko Roldan of the LBC-Batangas team in the PBL are two of the most popular faces in the hardcourt today. Rivera was Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the San Beda Red Cubs before he joined the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA), where he played for the Batangas Blades. Mike was "Crush ng Campus" when he was with the Tamaraws, the basketball team of the Far Eastern University. The two admit wearing Ducks Unlimited, which is made of 100 percent Egyptian cotton.

Beasts and monsters are set loose at the 4D Discovery Theatre.

Get grabbed by the 3D imagery. Sense every tremor. Shiver as chilly mist strokes your face. And feel creatures of darkness against your legs. Only at Enchanted Kingdom. Where movie watching is brought to a new dimension. Now showing the thriller Escape from Bane Manor.

Enchanted Kingdom

4D DISCOVERY THEATRE
Minimal admission fee required.

Makati Sales Office: G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tel. No.: 830-2111 to 16, 843-6073 to 78 • Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore branches • Tower Records (Makati, Alabang) • Robinson's Department Stores (Galleria, Manila) • www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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Looks can be deceiving.
Karen Mok Shu Qi Zhao Wei
夕陽天使
so close
www.so-close.com
MTRCB R-13

Strictly for 13 years of age and up

Sexy Asian angels display amazing martial arts techniques in 'So Close'

Lynn (Shu Qi) and Sue (Zhao Wei) are sexy and beautiful sisters whose parents were brutally killed by powerful underworld figures. Disillusioned with the law and armed with amazing computer and kung fu skills (not to mention an enviable fashion style), the seductive sisters become professional assassins, killing criminals for other criminals.

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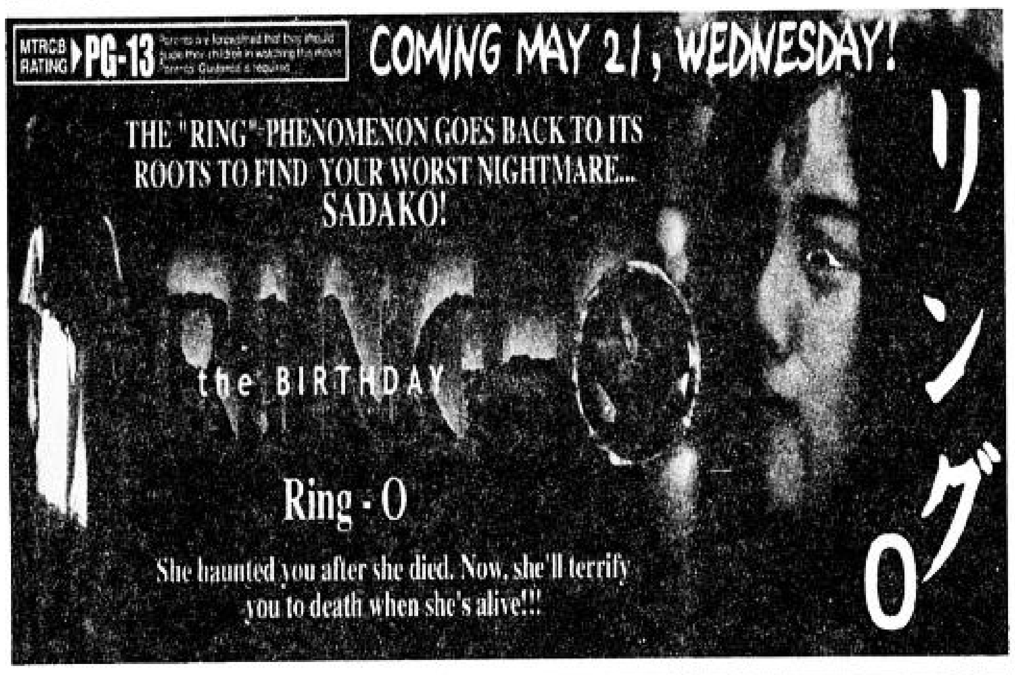
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents are forewarned that they should guide their children in watching the movie. Parental Guidance is required.

COMING MAY 21, WEDNESDAY!

THE "RING"-PHENOMENON GOES BACK TO ITS ROOTS TO FIND YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE... SADAKO!

She haunted you after she died. Now, she'll terrify you to death when she's alive!!!

MATRIX RELOADED
NOW SHOWING

AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

For screening schedules, pls. call 729-7777.

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333 or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

And when you claim your tickets at Greenbelt 3 or Greenbelt 4 Cinema Ticketbooth, you'll get an exclusive THE MATRIX RELOADED Postcard for every four (4) tickets purchased.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

BRUCE RULES THE WORLD!
THE COMEDY EVENT OF THE YEAR OPENS MAY 28!
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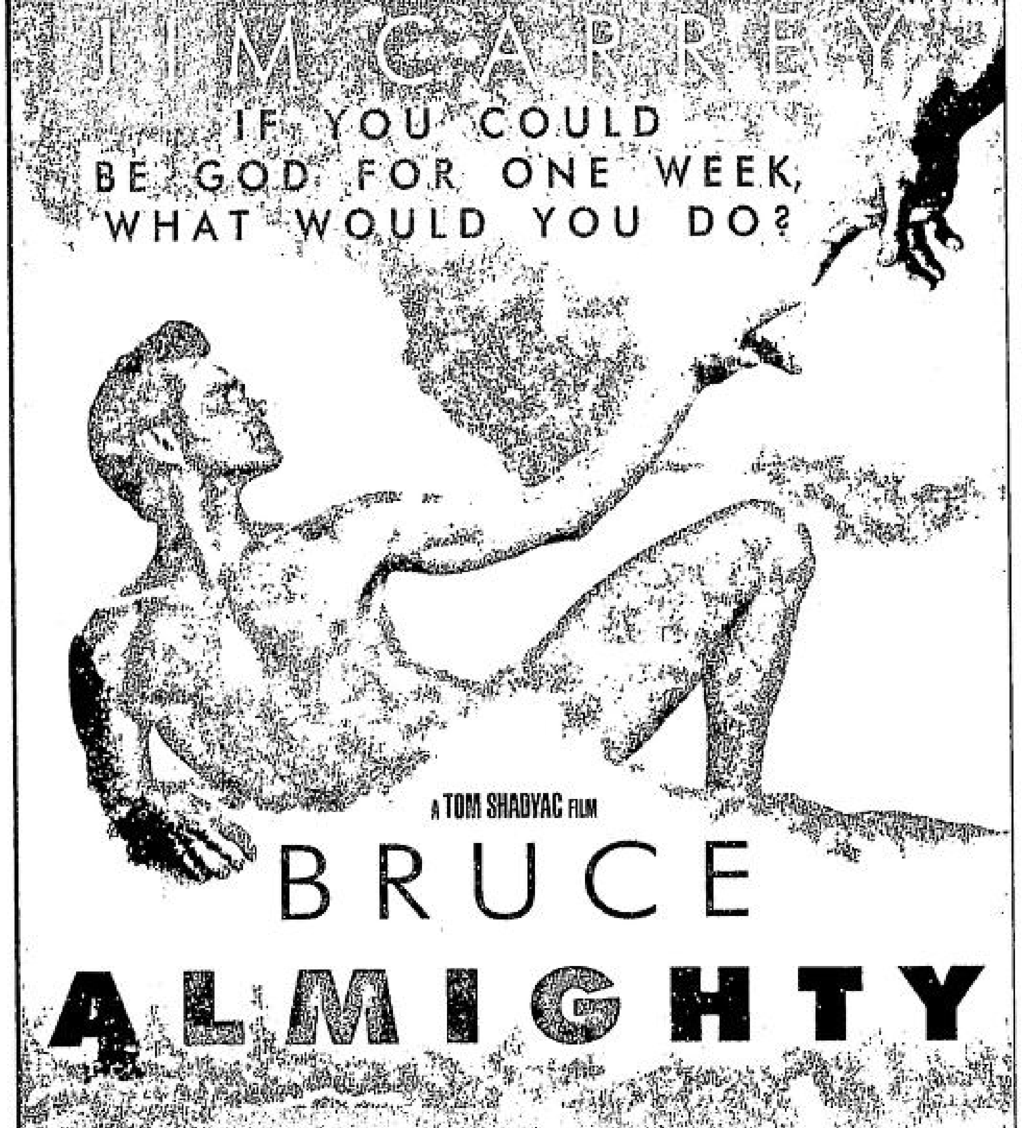

JIM CARREY
IF YOU COULD BE GOD FOR ONE WEEK, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
A TOM SHADYAC FILM
BRUCE ALMIGHTY
MORGAN FREEMAN JENNIFER ANISTON
www.brucealmighty.com
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Kyla and Luke back to back

SHOW TIME

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Tickets to "Back to Back" are P380 each, inclusive of one drink. For inquiries, call Virgin Cafe at 373-8766, or Dom at (0916)740-8325.

KYLA

MEJARES

KHALIL KAIMO

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Maritoni the survivor . . .

From page C7

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CINEMA 1
MATRIX RELOADED
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
R13

CINEMA 2
MATRIX RELOADED
12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00
R13

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MUSIC MUSEUM
MAY 24, 2003 DINGDONG AVANZADO 8:00PM
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SECOND WEEK!
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"SIDE-SPLITTING, KNEE-SLAPPING, BELLY-ACHING LAUGHS!"
Moze Persico, ENTERTAINMENT SPOTLIGHT, CTV MONTREAL

Steve Martin Queen Latifah

Bringing down the House
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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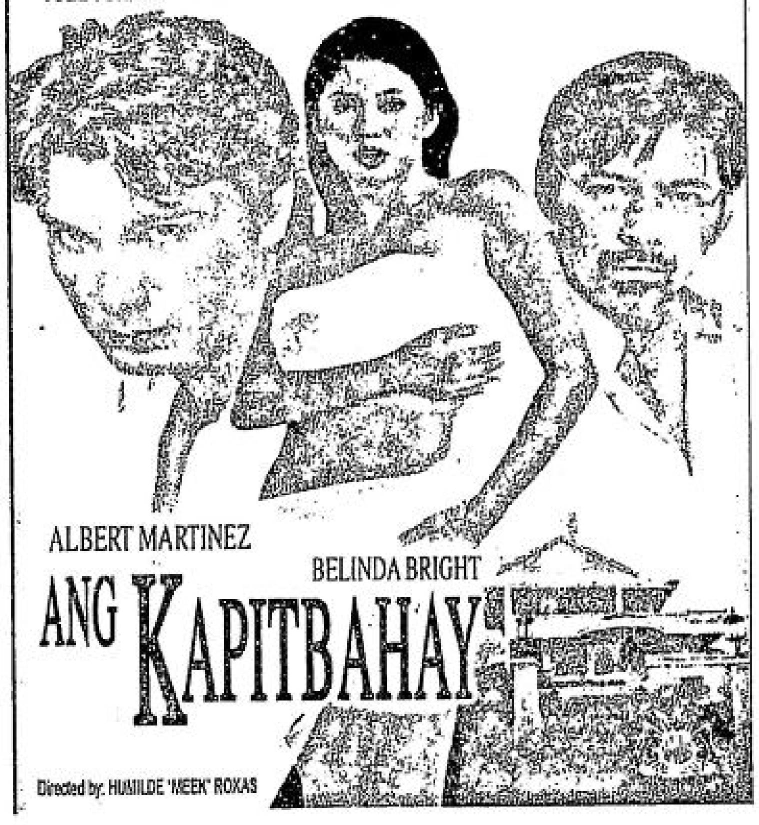
Imus Productions, Inc. proudly presents
JOEL TORRE DARIA RAMIREZ SOFIA VALDEZ MICHELLE ESTEVEZ


ALBERT MARTINEZ BELINDA BRIGHT

Directed by: HUMILDE "MEEK" ROXAS

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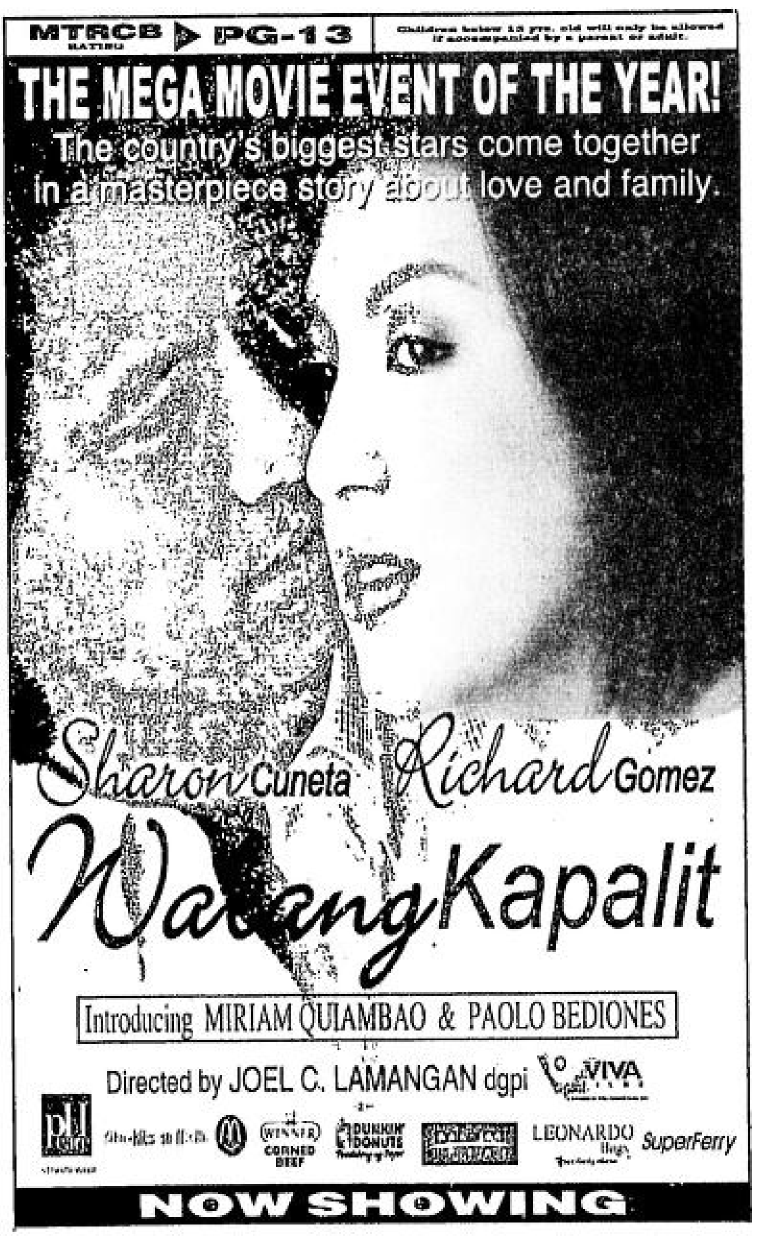
THE MEGA MOVIE EVENT OF THE YEAR!
The country's biggest stars come together in a masterpiece story about love and family.



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Directed by JOEL C. LAMANGAN dgpi VIVA
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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

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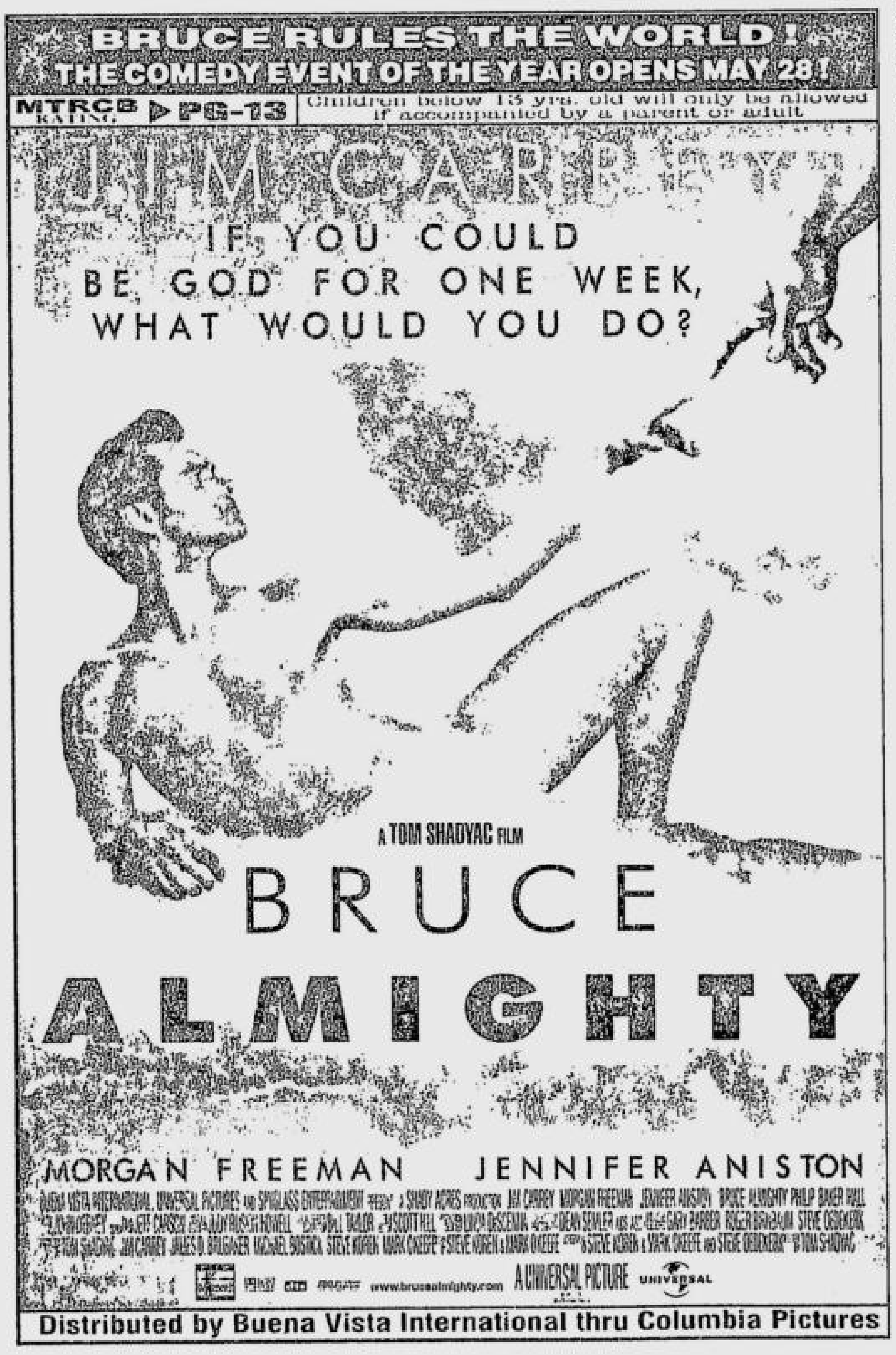
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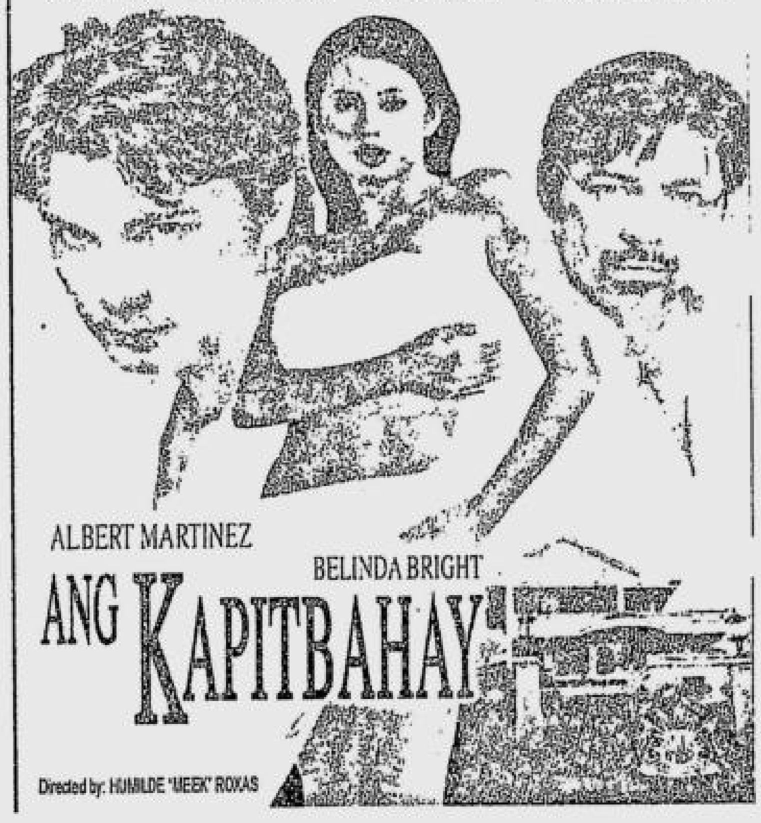
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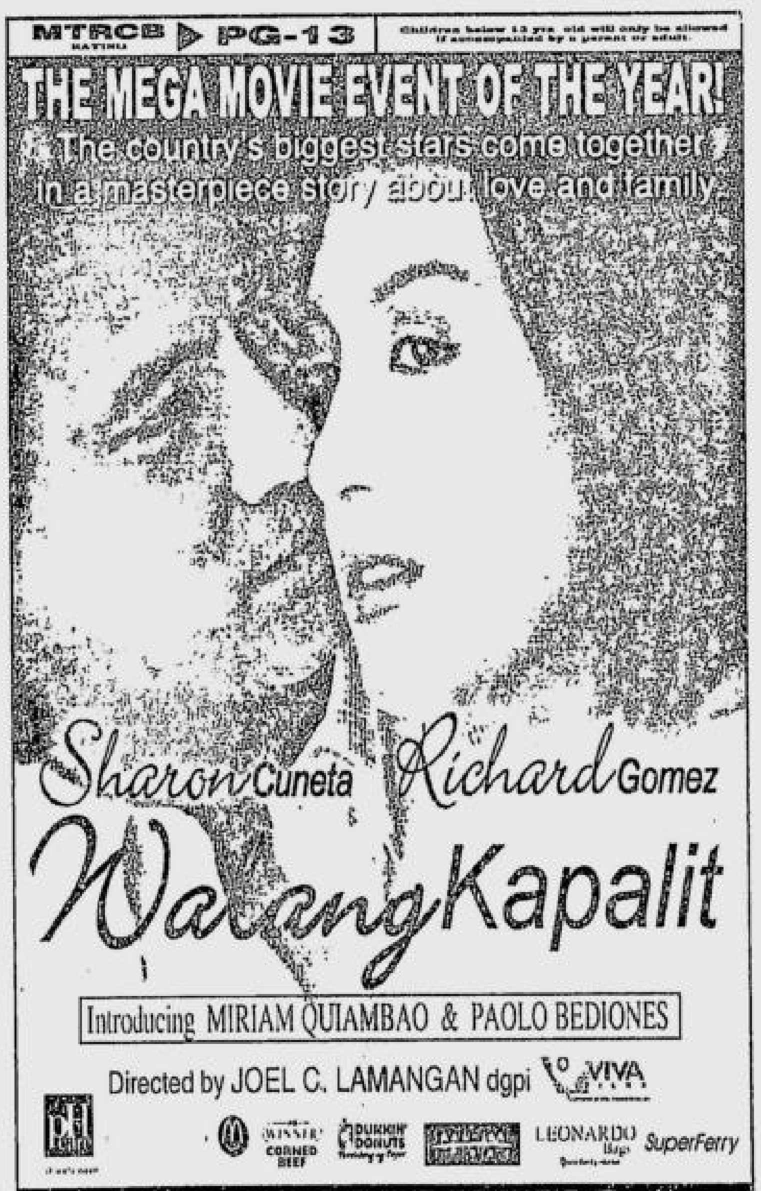
ANG KAPITBAHAY
Directed by: HUMILDE "MEEK" ROXAS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3 consummate actresses' sleights of cinema

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"THE HOURS" is a tribute to the empathetic, emotive power of novelist **Virginia Woolf** and her seminal work, "Mrs. Dalloway." The film shows how Woolf's life and work strikes a troubled chord in two other women who start out as strangers, but later turn out to be linked by a man who is eventually revealed as one woman's soulmate, and the other woman's son.

Woolf (**Nicole Kidman**) experienced severe mental problems that eventually pushed her to commit suicide. Neither of her two rapt acolytes follows suit in this fatal regard, but they mirror in different ways her decline into severe depression.

The older woman (played by **Julianne Moore**) tries to be the perfect wife and mother, but ends up abandoning her son, who grows up emotionally warped as a result.

As a grown man, her son (**Ed Harris**) is rescued by the other woman (**Meryl Streep**), who single-handedly wills him from killing himself after he discovers that he has AIDS.

All three women are looking for happiness, but none of them find it, because their sullen search is posited on the wrong premise. They have so many expectations that, when happiness does make its tentative appearance in their lives, they don't recognize it, much less appreciate it.

In the hands of lesser film artists, these cinematic conceits would be either tendentious or excessively melodramatic. But Kidman, Moore and Streep are such focused and consummate screen thespians that they transform the movie's rather repetitive developments into a series of insightful revelations about the dark interstices of human experience.

Each of the film's three leading actresses is a major luminary in her own right, but in "The Hours" they refuse to do star turns and instead show the heady artistic heights to which acting can aspire.

The best of the lot? The Oscars have spoken in favor of Kidman, and she does assume a completely different persona here, a sleight of cinema attributable to the fake nose she uses to look more like Virginia Woolf.

Still, our personal vote goes to Streep, whose performance is so subtle and yet so clear that it can serve as a touchstone for great film acting for ambitious young screen thespians.

Streep's portrayal is so vivid that viewers can practically "read" what her character is thinking. Her performance "speaks" volume even in scenes that have no dialogue at all—an achievement that reminds us of the major visual strength of film.

Moore is riveting in her own right, and her reappearance at the end of the film as an old woman comes across as an open wound that is beyond healing.

But Streep is the best of the lot, through sheer dint of variety, depth and daring. Her performance in "The Hours" is one of the finest in her long and distinguished career and shows how some already acclaimed actresses improve further through time.

Among the film's actors, it's Ed Harris who comes off best with his unflinchingly painful characterization of the AIDS patient who is Moore's victim and Streep's hope and despair.

Making these actors' work even more memorable is the film's inspired way of tellingly editing their separate actions into a skein of sympathetic, empathetic gestures like the montage in which two women separated by decades both pull their hair up into a bun. That may be a single gesture but the editing imbues it with a significance that is beautiful to behold.

Feats like this may look rather technical, but they in fact show that, in their joy and misery, these women are one.

Martin . . .

From page C1

Las Vegas time. "It is also the venue where the likes of Sammy Davis Jr. and Tony Orlando had performed. They haven't touched anything in the showroom."

Mixed crowd

Aside from the TV plugging on ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel (TFC), Martin's series is also being plugged in the sound system of other Golden Nugget-owned hotels along The Strip, like the Bellagio, Mirage and MGM.

The show is supposed to be strictly limited to an hour and 15 minutes, but the singer said, "I'm not used to having a time limit for my shows, which usually last three hours. But that helps me learn the Las Vegas way. I had to cut down on my spiels, sing more and talk less."

He said he sang 11 songs, including three medleys.

The opening night audience was a mixed crowd that filled the 400-seater venue.

"That's the capacity of the showroom," the singer pointed out. "Anything bigger than that is a concert venue. There were more whites than brown people in the audience.

"Most of the people who came were families. There were also a lot of Filipinos from Las Vegas."

He said most of the Filipinos who came to watch the show were thrilled that there is finally a Filipino headliner in a main showroom on The Strip.

New kid on the block

On May 21, he will do a special show exclusively for the Las Vegas press, hotel executives and VIPs, including famous Las Vegas performers Siegfried and Roy, Clint Holmes, David Copperfield and other big names, "to introduce to Vegas the new kid on the block," Martin gushed. "Can you believe that?"

"Thanks to all my experiences with our press conferences in Manila, my late-night TV hosting and concerts," he said. "I have proposed a concept never before done in any hotel in Las Vegas. I will combine the press con with the show. I will do my show and at the same time, instead of my usual spiels and ad libs, I will answer the questions from the media, either in words, in songs or in jokes.

"The Golden Nugget loves the idea. The hotel couldn't believe I can wing it. Sounds fun."

Two days before the start of the Golden Nugget stint, Martin flew to Los Angeles to promote the series. The promo included a press conference at Barrio Fiesta in Glendale, California. Tuesday night, he had another press conference at the Golden Nugget Hotel, where his American producers sat with him at the presidential table.

"I'm the first and only Filipino artist who has gone this far in Las Vegas," Martin said. "My dream was to hit the big room and I did it."

Golden voice

The singer known as his country's concert king recently marked his 20th year in the business.

"Where it goes from here, I can't really say," he said. "It's overwhelming to start my 21st year in Las Vegas. This is a milestone for me."

Martin said he clinched the Golden Nugget contract after an American agent, Colleen Custer, made him perform in the same showroom last January.

"Colleen has always believed in my talent," Martin said. "She has been fighting for me for years without a contract or pay. She looks at me as a very good lounge singer, but not big enough to be Celine Dion.

"Last January, she made me go to Las Vegas, where I did a two-night show at the Golden Nugget, without any talent fee, although they paid for my airfare and my hotel room. Little did I know that it was an audition.

"Both nights were sold out. Maurice Wooden, the president of Golden Nugget, called me the 'golden voice of Las Vegas.' That paved the way for my shows today."

Ultimate mission

When Martin and Regine Velasquez did a recent concert tour in the US, Colleen invited the Golden Nugget people to watch the Filipino singers' shows at the Cow Palace in San Francisco and at the UCLA Pauley Pavilion in Los Angeles.

Among the people in the opening night audience was a Filipina's American husband who cried when he walked under Martin's huge billboard,

MARTIN/ C6

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bawa't ina ay langit.

Anghel Sa Lupa

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Jose Javier Reyes, dgpi

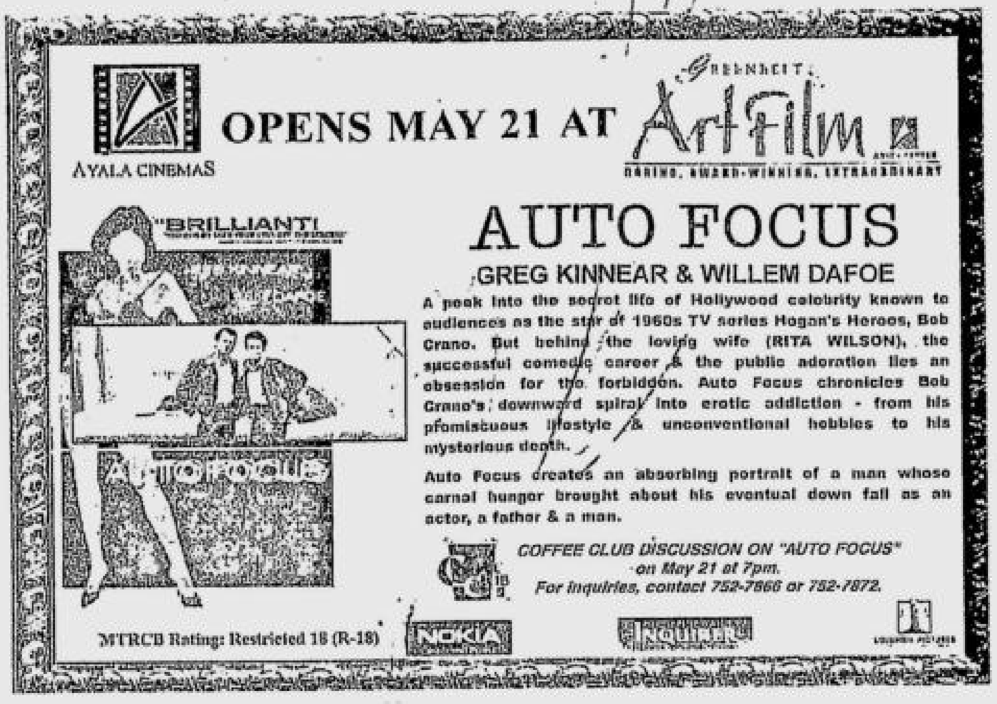
Martin headlines Vegas series!

From page C5

said the singer.

"They both came to see me perform and he told me why he cried," Martin said. "He said he knows his wife is one of my biggest fans and he felt so much pride that finally, a Filipino has made it to The Strip. That made my whole night. I may have a small hotel room, but this stint is very big for me. It's a major step in my career."

Martin added: "My ultimate mission is to make people proud, inspire a country and sing for you. So please pray for me."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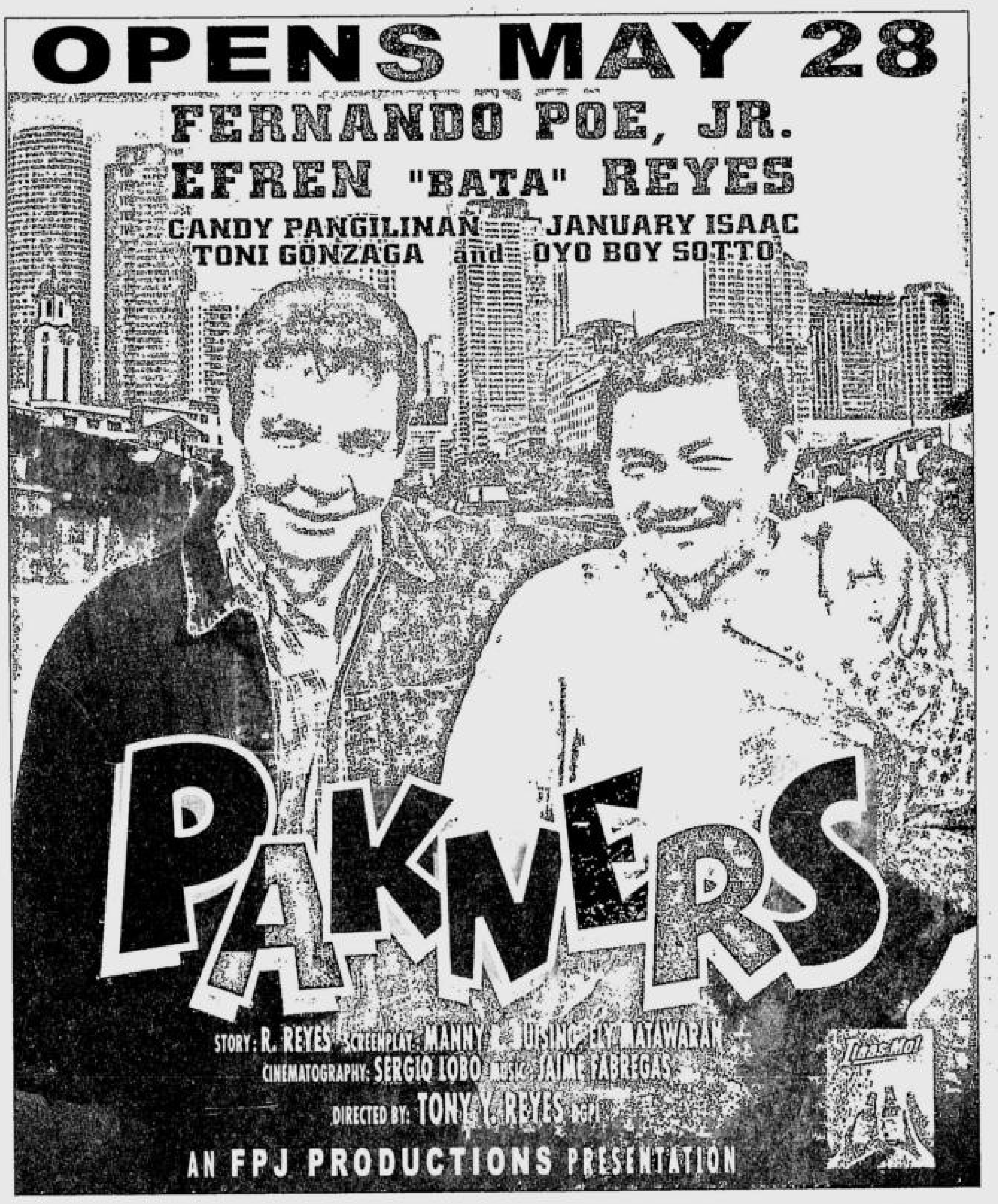
OPENS MAY 28

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CANDY PANGILINAN JANUARY ISAAC
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PAKNERS

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DIRECTED BY: TONY Y. REYES DGPI

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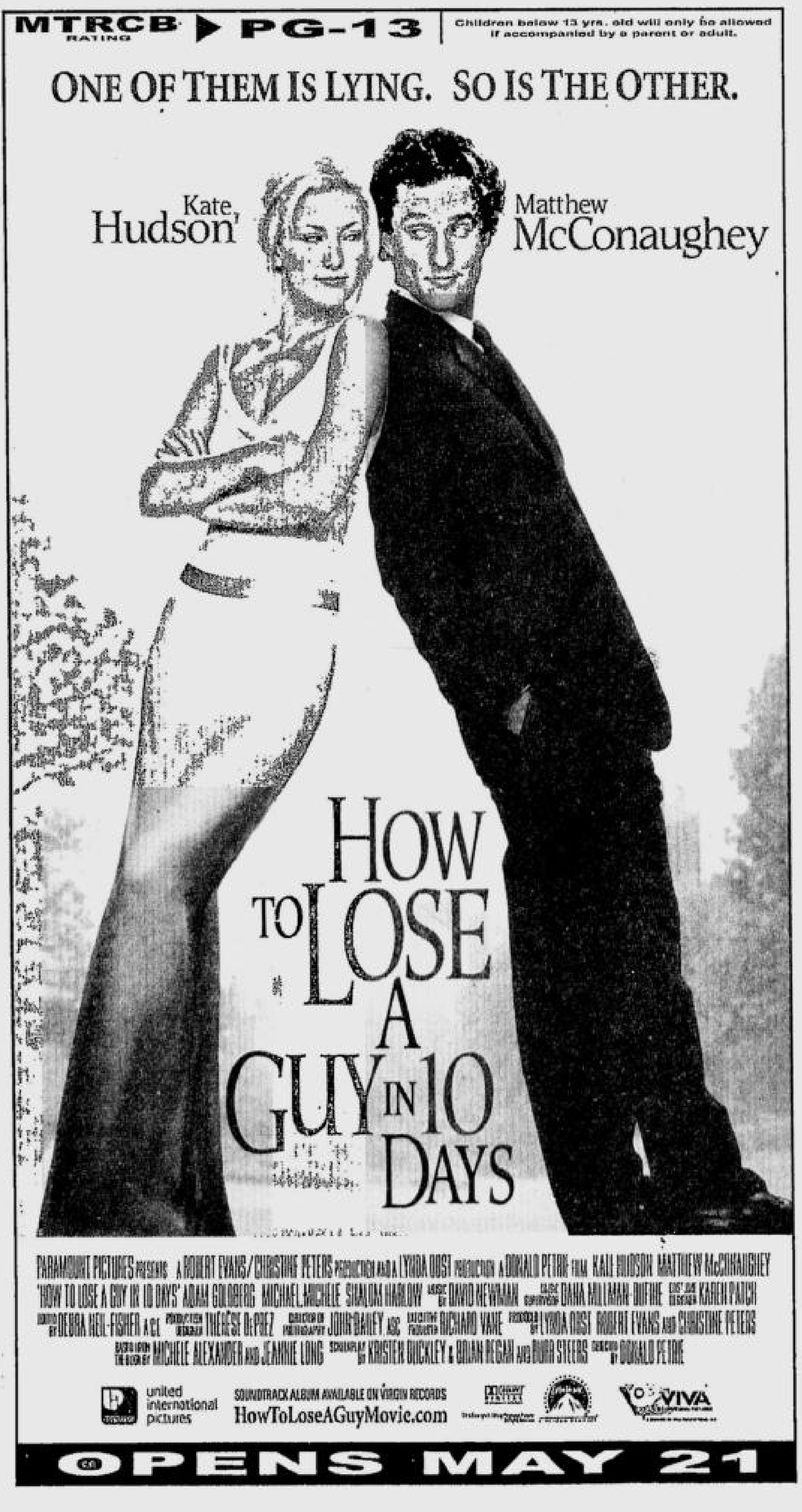
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IN LOVE AGAIN, Maritoni says she's happy in the arms of Hans Montenegro and daughter Alexi.

Maritoni the survivor finds something to be happy about every day

By Marinel R. Cruz

TODAY, almost three years since she completed her last round of chemotherapy, actress Maritoni Fernandez still remembers the pain of the entire experience.

On March 27, 2001, two days before she turned 32, Maritoni was diagnosed with breast cancer, stage 1.

"It was weird," she says now as she recalls what the doctor had told her. "How could they tell me I was dying when I hadn't even begun to live? I said to myself, what the doctor was saying couldn't possibly be true."

For three years, she had been feeling a lump the size of a small pebble on her right breast. She did not worry about it because in the three times she had it checked, doctors told her it was perfectly normal for a woman in her early 30s to have lumps on their breasts due to hormonal changes and menstruation.

But when she went to the United States to accompany her mother for a medical checkup, Maritoni found out the lump was already as big as a ping-pong ball and that it was cancerous.

Her supposed one-week US visit lasted for a year because she had to undergo surgery to remove the lump, followed by months of radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

She says that through it all, her daughter Alexi, now 8, was her pillar of strength.

"I fought to live for my daughter," the mother tells INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at their house in Quezon City. "She gave me the strength to fight the fight."

Maritoni says what frightened her was not the prospect of dying but the thought of leaving behind Alexi, who was then only 6. "Had it not been for the thought that Alexi would be left motherless at a very early age, I would have simply given up," she says. "The experience had been so painful and hard."

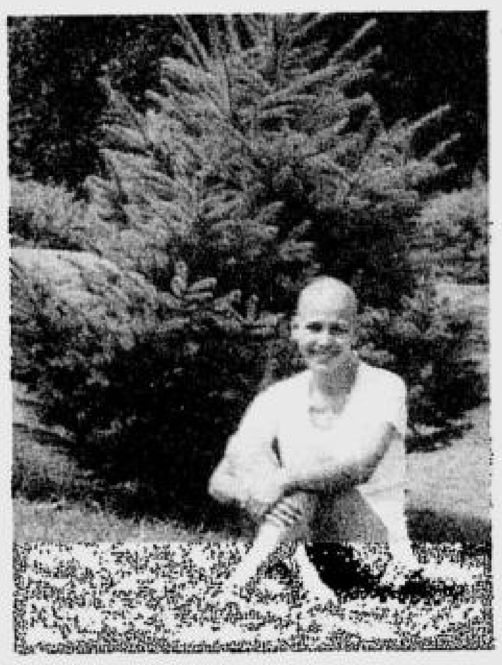
The actress likened the drugs used in the chemotherapy to the videogame character Pacman: "They chase after all your cancer cells and hopefully kill them."

The mixture of drugs, she says, is so potent that it could also kill all fast-producing cells in the body—like cells that make up nails, hair, saliva and the stomach lining.

"That's why cancer patients lose their hair, vomit and have mouth sores," she explains. "Some patients even get glaucoma. The side effects are so painful that you feel like you're already dying."

Maritoni says Alexi stayed with her while she had her chemo sessions and sometimes even helped her inject the drug cocktail. "I made her see me in my worst state. I didn't sugarcoat anything for her.

"People might call me harsh for doing what I did with my daughter," she admits, "but if they were in my shoes, I'm sure they would do the same. I just wanted her to understand that if I died, it would be God's will and so she should not blame anyone."



SMILING despite the painful treatment in the US.

But the experience, Maritoni confesses, also made the child cling too much to her mother. "She was scared of losing me. I'm now struggling to correct this. I need her to become her own person. She cannot be dependent on me all the time because, God forbid, should I ever get sick again and not make it, she would not be able to cope. I don't want her to have a hard time."

Maritoni the survivor says she is now more careful, if not paranoid, about her body. She would run to the doctor at the slightest hint of a headache.

"I have a good reason to be paranoid," she asserts. "I have to live with the fear that the cancer might recur every day for the rest of my life. I don't what to find out that I have cancer again when it's too late. I'm a cancer survivor, and this fact will not make me rest just because I'm alive today. Hell, no! If I feel the slightest sign of a headache, you can bet I'm going to have a CT scan."

She's been told that the chances of recurrence among survivors her age are slim. Still, she wants to make sure that if the disease would come back, she would be able to catch it at the earliest stage.

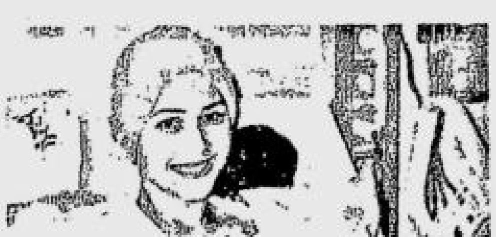
"I believe that the more in tune you are with your body, the less chances you have of ever getting sick again," she says. "Your body has a way of telling you that you are not well, so you should listen. Had I listened to myself the first time, maybe I would not have needed chemotherapy."

Maritoni says she now has a different perspective and lives each day to the fullest. She tries to find something, no matter how small, to be happy about every day.

"A good example was my experience this afternoon," she says. "My car stalled right in the middle of Edsa. I was about to panic when seven men, all vendors of bottled water, started pushing my car to the nearest gas station. Seven men who didn't know me from Adam pushed my car. Isn't that something?"

Like in the prayer, she has also learned to accept things that she cannot change, such as her unsuccessful marriage to Alex Alvarez,

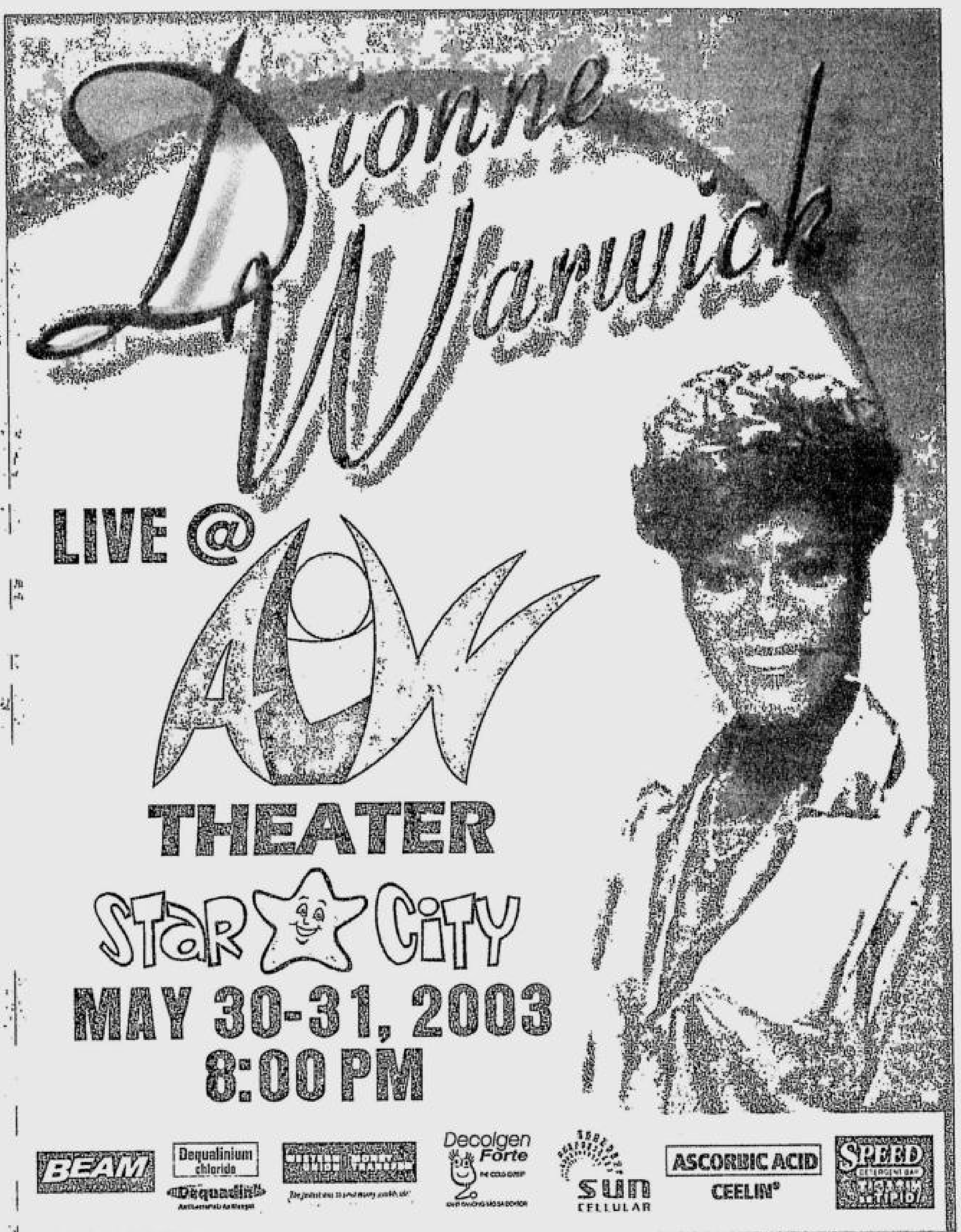
MARITONI/C4



DURING chemotherapy.

Carmi Martin was seen sitting with **Marc Nelson** and **Cody Moreno** at the Louie's THX screening of the "Matrix Reloaded" sponsored by the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID). Marc and Cody were cuddling with their dates while Carmi seemed to have been dateless that night. Carmi is taking up Interior Design at the PSID.

DID YOU KNOW...



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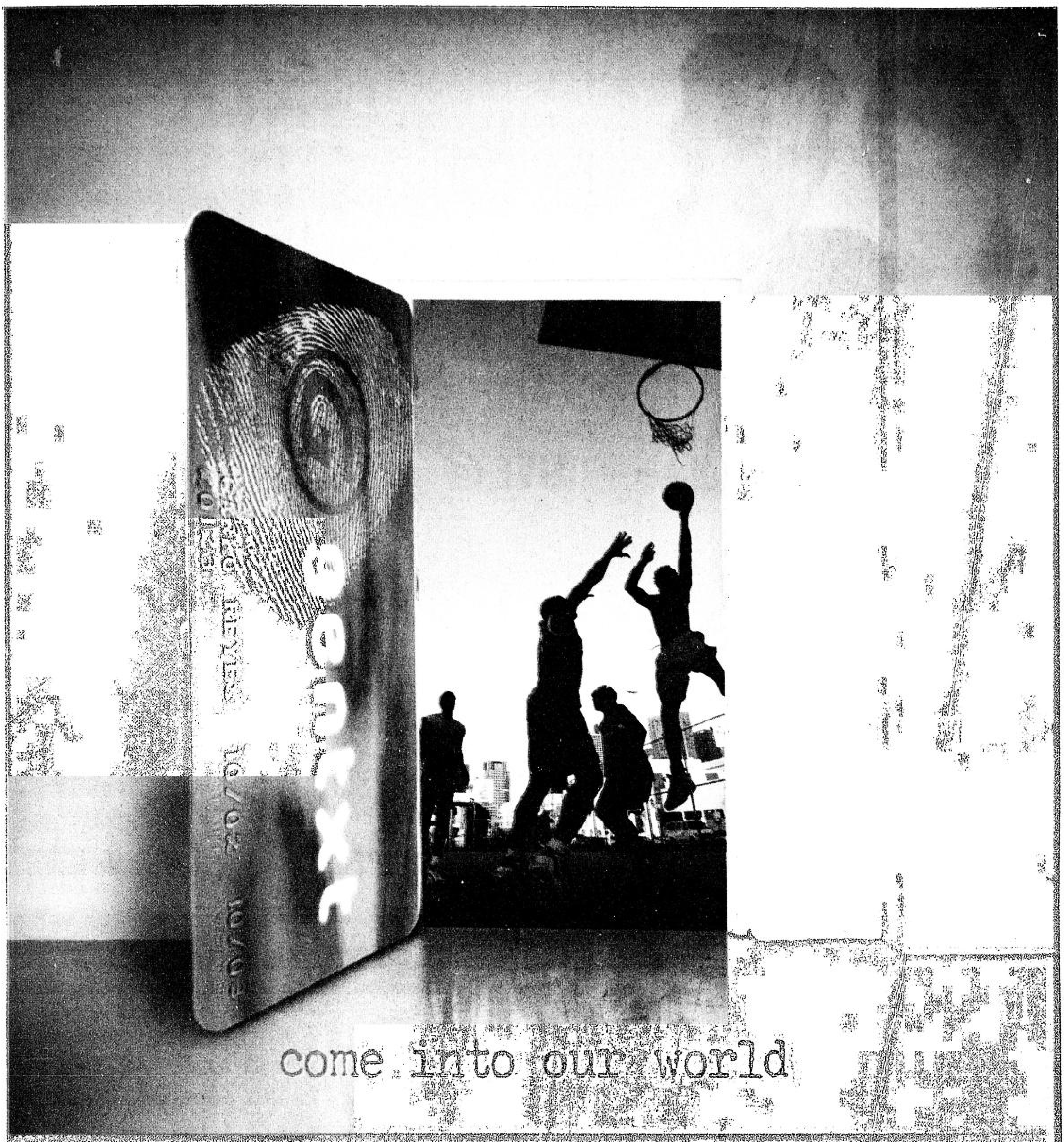

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

ARROYO-MANOTOK NUPTIALS

A wedding coordinated in heaven

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

EXCEPT for the ubiquitous presence of Presidential Security Group members, the wedding of presidential son Diosdado Ignacio "Dato" Macapagal Arroyo to Maria Victoria Celina "Kakai" Manotok last Friday at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City, wasn't very different from other high-profile weddings. But being both simple and low key, Dato and Kakai kept their altar date a simple, solemn and private affair.

There was hardly any politician around. The church doors were closed right before the start of the bridal march and no media photographers were allowed inside.

The bride arrived 10 minutes before the scheduled 4:30 p.m. nuptial mass in a white Lincoln Continental together with her father, Ayala executive Rufino Luis Manotok. She had come from the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila where designer Joe Salazar dressed her up in an exquisite Maria Clara-inspired silk satin bridal dress accented with Swarovski crystals in leaf pattern. Her headdress was a simple spray strewn with Swarovskis. Fanny Serrano did her hair and makeup.

The rites promptly started at 4:30 p.m. President Macapagal-Arroyo, First Gentleman Jose

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Mesmerize – Ja Rule	G9
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Outnumbered but not outfoxed: A mother-in-law's story

By Carmelita Natividad
Contributor

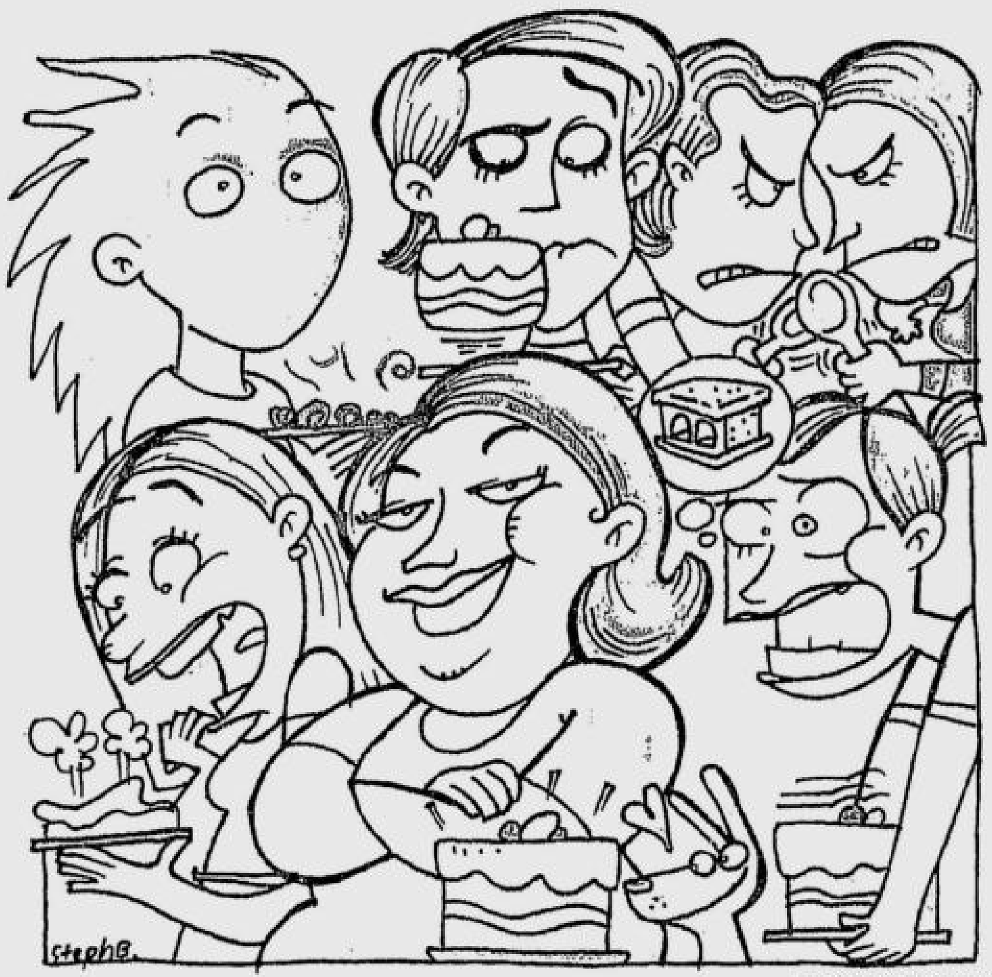


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MOTHER-IN-LAW jokes have been going around for ages, so much so mothers-in-law have been typecast as villains.

When I was younger, I used to wonder what sort of mother-in-law I would turn out to be. But then I decided it was unfair to be totally focused on mothers-in-law, for the other half of the relationship, the daughters-in-law and sons-in-law, naturally had active, participating roles in the alliance and should also be subject to public scrutiny.

With six sons and only two daughters, I resigned myself to having six daughters-in-law. Too many in-laws of my own sex suggested a formidable, if not an altogether bleak, future. It meant that in the family arena I would be outnumbered. Sons-in-law I could handle, but relationships with daughters-in-law would somehow be more complex since the law of nature dictates that like entities repel each other.

In this difficult relationship, the mother-in-law, unjustifiably, is always considered the villain. The injustice lies in the fact that when two personalities clash, only the mother-in-law is criticized and is presumed to be the aggressor. It doesn't matter if the opposition is a female Dracula, Cinderella's wicked stepsibling or even Juan Tamad's twin sister. It is always the mother-in-law's role that is scrutinized.

It seems that we mothers-in-law are expected to observe proper decorum at all times, in all instances, and at all costs. This may seem like an impossible dream for daughters-in-law, but my own experience shows it is possible.

Model mother-in-law

My own mother-in-law was a complete lady and a model of propriety and good breeding. My husband and I lived with her in her house on Singalong when we were newlyweds. During the five years we stayed with her, not once did she lose her temper.

I was her only daughter-in-law, my husband being her only son. I am certain she dreamt of having an exemplary daughter-in-law in her youth. But she had me instead.

I was not exactly a model anything, much less a model in-law. My mother-in-law must have called upon everything she learned in finishing school to put up with me and keep her poise at the same time. It must have been hard to take my immaturity, which was really no excuse for my mistakes. Besides, claiming immaturity at age 23 is a graceless admission.

There is a strong probability that I am being too hard on myself as I remember events that happened decades ago. There is often a tendency to over-represent situations. Besides, I loved my mother-in-law and held her in such high esteem that it inspired me to try to be the daughter-in-law of her dreams. I must have been, at the very least, tolerable between minor fits of anger. Yes, I had fits every now and then, for I was highly sensitive and short-tempered—an appalling combination that made me, on occasion, a truly difficult person to live with.

Worse, I had to contend with five sisters-in-law, my husband's siblings, which made me appreciate the dilemma of "like entities." The natural forces of this dilemma came into play many times in the past. The encounters were never open and heated, but characterized more by a quiet animosity borne with much tolerance and grace.

Culinary weakness

After each of my six sons got married, I was confronted by an assortment of wives of varying personalities but with one common peculiarity—a deficiency in the culinary area. I suspected the gods of conspiring against the males in my family. But what the heck, if my sons did not object, why should I? After all, I wasn't going to be the victim of this shortcoming. Or so I thought.

> 'Having six daughters-in-law has taught me that we mothers-in-law aren't always the villain—especially in the kitchen'

I have a BS degree in home economics from the Philippine Women's University and had become quite an expert in the kitchen. My children were brought up believing that good cuisine was a quality that every household should have. But throughout my children's growing-up years, my expertise remained unappreciated, for they had no basis for comparison between good and bad cooking.

To my children, there was nothing good or bad about home-cooked food. Food prepared by Mom was just food, always pleasantly edible. This might be why culinary skill did not rate highly in their choice of a spouse.

So now, at a point in my life when I anticipate retiring and enjoying someone else's cooking, I am unable to do so since, for lack of a better alternative, there is still a demand for my cooking from my children. No doubt it's circumstances like these that produced the expression "Just like what Mom used to make"—which was not so much in praise of Mom's cooking skill but more like a desperate cry for deliverance from Sweetie's culinary talent, or lack of it.

Relief and nostalgia

My children married in succession, within a few years of one another. Luckily, I prepared myself for the reality that inevitably I was going to lose them, although the thought that they would no longer be part of the household bore heavily on the heart.

Keeping eight offsprings contented and comfortable in an efficiently managed home was a yoke I hoped to be relieved of one fine glorious day. So, instead of the jealousy and fear most prospective mothers-in-law felt at losing the "top billing" to a competitor, I felt only relief and nostalgia. I was not concerned that I would be replaced in my sons' affections, but I was worried that my replacements would not do as well for my children as I had. At the same time, I fervently prayed that each of my sons would be the best partner and friend his wife could ever have.

I must say that what my daughters-in-law lacked in the art of cooking they made up for in other areas. One attribute I consider vital is a sense of decorum and a display of respect, not only for me and my husband, but between the spouses. If ever there were hurt feelings caused by familiarity and propinquity, these remained hidden and were not allowed to escalate into ugly, noisy altercations.

Ordinarily, six females tracing their roots to different cultural soils and merged into one unit would become a delicate, sensitive composite with the potential energy of a nuclear fusion. So far, our get-togethers were cordial and civil at their worst; warm and full of camaraderie, at their best. This is a comfortable medium and is what is to be expected of a civilized group which, hopefully, we are.

Dreaded taste tests

In fairness to my daughters-in-law, all of them tried to learn how to cook either to please their husbands or to complete a self image of the model wife. The testing ground for their efforts was the family dinner table where their creations endured very thorough scrutiny. The judges were, of course, the rest of the family members, a formidable array of discriminating appetites, each taste bud prepared to reject anything strange.

This was always a dreaded event, for my children could be candidly cruel in expressing their displeasure. I suspect that low ratings for their cooking led my daughters-in-law to abandon the culinary ship altogether.

I remember the time Peachy, Michael's wife, attempted early in their marriage to prepare a simple dessert, a refrigerator cake which did not require baking. She has an insane fear of ovens, and the sound of spattering oil sends her into hysterics.

Michael was simply ecstatic and so grateful for his wife's courageous gesture that he felt compelled to help to make her work easier. Seeing how hot it was in the kitchen, he turned on the floor fan full blast, turning it in his wife's direction to keep her comfortable while creating her masterpiece. The helpful gesture resulted in flour being sprayed all over the kitchen top, a shower of sleet in winter. It was her first and last attempt in my kitchen.

Now, each time she gets the itch to try again, we gently steer her in another direction. Her interest in this area has been confined to watching cooking demonstrations on television and collecting recipes now gathering dust in a useless file somewhere.

One fine day, perhaps, when the gods decide to be kind to me, this file will be transformed into a splendid feast on my dinner table. Hope does spring eternal in my bosom. All I have to pray for now is time.

Lettuce and cabbage

One time, another daughter-in-law volunteered to prepare Caesar's salad, a simple mixture of lettuce, croutons, bacon and cheese. The dressing would come out of a bottle, already prepared. I tried to think of complications that could spoil this bold offer, and decided it was quite safe for her to go ahead. What could possibly go wrong with just mixing a few items together, except perhaps the very remote possibility of a dislocated elbow?

So I sent her off to the supermarket with my daughter Marissa to get several heads of Baguio lettuce for the salad. They came home with two heads of cabbage. This after spending some time in the supermarket's vegetable section discussing the aspects of a head of lettuce, even consulting a stranger they met who obviously could also not distinguish between a head of lettuce and a head of cabbage. It took several years for this daughter-in-law to live this down.

Thelma, my youngest son's wife, is so far the only one who has braved criticism from her brothers-in-law. Believing in "no guts, no glory," she has reached a level of expertise where her apple pie is indistinguishable from mine, while her sans rival sends my sons into fits of euphoria.

Jing, my youngest daughter-in-law and the latest addition to the family circle, had at the outset emphatically expressed her disinterest in anything that had to do with cooking. Although willing to serve her allotted time in the kitchen, she considers it safer to limit her involvement to the operation of the dishwasher.

Women of my children's generation have lost the efficacy that characterized the wife and mother of my time. Most of today's women have become career persons or entrepreneurs with home-based businesses that bring in, besides a substantial income, a self-sufficiency that liberates them from conventions.

It seems to me that the first convention to go is the cooking skill that we, and our mothers before us, passed on to the next generation. I remember that my mother prepared our meals although we had a cook. Even now, the mere memory of Mama's personal scent—a pleasant synthesis of the aroma of vinegar, garlic, herbs, sweat and talcum powder that I got a whiff of each time I kissed her—makes me feel heady.

Watching him eat

Many other conventions have gone the way of mother's cooking, best forgotten for having failed to achieve anything meaningful. One tradition I was advised to keep when I got married was never to eat dinner ahead of my husband, but to wait for him always. This was premised on the assumption that, if he knew that someone would go hungry if he was late, he would surely be home on time. It took a good number of hungry nights before I realized its absurdity. Only a simpleton would believe that, after a few years of marriage, a husband would still be conscience-stricken about his wife sitting at home, enduring hunger as she waited for him.

Tradition also dictated that a good wife sat by her husband while he ate his meal, if she had eaten. Adding up the hours I spent doing just this, I figure I must have spent about half a lifetime sitting and watching. During all that time I could have gotten myself a second college degree.

In a way, the absence of these practices among the wives that came after my generation appeared to have liberated women from their traditional role of servility in the home. Since the biblical injunction "to go forth and multiply" has been fulfilled, maybe it is time for women to be freed from the old wifely traditions.

The Experts Speak Up!

Simple Sore throat or Laryngopharyngeal Reflux (LPR)?

(First of two parts)

Do you sound hoarse? Is your throat painful or ticklish? Thinking it is a sore throat, you'll go through the rituals of curing one, only to find yourself disappointed. You still sound hoarse. Your throat is still painful and ticklish. But, wait, you notice that there is a shortness of breath or choking sensation. Is this really sore throat or are these the symptoms of Laryngopharyngeal Reflux, better known as LPR?

Around 50% of patients complaining of laryngeal problems like hoarseness of voice could be attributed to reflux-related causes. Usually, sufferers often dismiss the disease for a simple sore throat, but its frequent occurrences might prove them wrong. Thus, it is always of an advantage to know more about this newly-defined disease.

Eutrapio S. Guevara, Jr., MD, FPCS
Professor and Chairman
Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Director
Director, Voice(Speech) - Swallowing and Sinus Center
St. Luke's Medical Center

More on LPR...

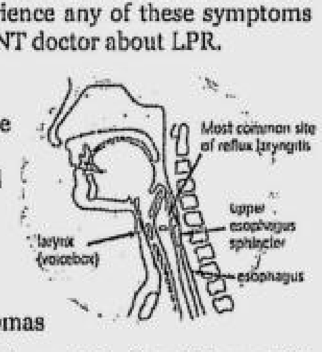
LPR involves the function of the upper acrodigestive system. Upon swallowing food, it passes down through the esophagus into the stomach. Here, it is stimulated by strong, acidic fluids that break down the food. Because these acids are highly corrosive, they can cause extensive damage when they go outside the stomach. Reflux occurs when the acid leaks into the larynx, where the protective lining is not as resilient. As a result, the larynx becomes irritated and inflamed.

The term reflux comes from a Greek word that means "backflow." It usually refers to the backflow of stomach contents. Normally, once the things we eat reach the stomach, digestion should begin without stomach contents coming back up again (or refluxing). Laryngopharyngeal Reflux (LPR) refers to the backflow of food or acid from the stomach into the larynx (the voice box) or the pharynx (the throat). LPR can occur day or night, even if a person hasn't eaten a thing.

Throat clearing, a feeling of lump in the throat, or difficulty swallowing and chronic cough may be signs that you have LPR. Some people have hoarseness that comes and goes, and others have a problem with too much nose and throat drainage; that is, too much mucus or phlegm. Some people have heartburn, too. If you experience any of these symptoms and if you are a smoker, you should immediately ask your ENT doctor about LPR.

LPR is a serious health condition that can cause:

- Excessive throat clearing
- Too much throat mucus
- A lump in the throat
- Chronic cough
- Trouble swallowing
- Hoarseness
- Heartburn
- Dysphonia, or spasms of the vocal cords that cause interruptions of speech and tight or trained voice
- Further aggravation of snoring, obstructive sleep apnea, and asthma
- Vocal fold nodules, granulomas


Most common site of reflux laryngitis
upper esophagus sphincter
larynx (voicebox)
esophagus

How is LPR different from GERD (Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease)?

Some people experience discomfort such as heartburn, but not everyone with reflux has heartburn or indigestion. In fact, many people with LPR usually do not have heartburn. This is because the material that refluxes does not stay in the esophagus for very long. In other words, the acid does not have enough time to irritate the esophagus and cause heartburn. This is why LPR is called "Silent Reflux." Other medical specialists call it "Atypical Reflux."

However, if even small amounts of refluxed material come all the way up into the throat, other problems can occur. This is because, compared to the esophagus, the voice box and throat are much more sensitive to injury and irritation from stomach acid. LPR can aggravate conditions like heavy snoring, obstructive sleep apnea, and asthma leading to sudden nocturnal death or "bangungot" in local dialect.

Can children get LPR?

Yes, LPR can cause or worsen throat and breathing problems in infants and children. Often LPR is more difficult to diagnose in children. Infants and children who may have LPR should be taken to a specialist for reflux testing.

What tests might my doctor order?

If your doctor thinks that you have LPR, he or she will probably perform a throat exam first and look at the voice box. If this area looks swollen and/or red, you may have LPR.

If your doctor orders tests, this is to be sure about your diagnosis in order that he or she may pick the best type of treatment for you. It is important that they be certain that you don't have any complications of LPR.

The common tests conducted for LPR include Transnasal Flexible Endoscopic Naso-Laryngoscopy, 24-hour double-probe pH monitoring (pH testing), a Barium swallow, and/or an Esophagoscopy.

More on LPR in next week's article -- an in-depth discussion on tests, treatment, and preventive measures.

A health update from the throat care experts, PSO-HNS and Bactidol.

Hexetidine
Bactidol

Her ex-husband wants them to reunite

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 28 and mother to a five-year-old girl. I got married at 20 and moved out of our home when my daughter was only 10 months old because my husband was irresponsible.

He gambled a lot, and stole my money and jewelry as well as his father's valuables to pay for his vice. He would stay away for two or three days gambling, then retire at his relatives' house, telling them that we had a fight even if we didn't. His family believed that and blamed me.

My daughter and I have stayed with my parents since, and I haven't dated anyone, not because I hate men but because I don't feel attracted to anyone after what happened to my marriage.

After we parted, I got a job and raised our child without his help. We're civil to each other, and to give ourselves a chance to patch things up, we go to movies or spend Sundays out with our daughter. But his vice is still there.

Last year, I put up my own business without help from him or his family. Then on my birthday a few weeks ago, he texted me, saying, "I love you and our daughter and I long to make our family whole again."

Since then, I often cry while driving home from work, wondering if he was being honest, and feeling sure only that I've been alone these past five years without anyone to share my achievements or to discuss my problems with.

> Words are cheap. One sweet text message doesn't mean he has reformed enough to earn your marriage back

Do I cry because I still love him, or am I just lonely? Does our marriage still have a chance? I want a good marriage and a quiet life and I'm ready to live again with him, or have our marriage annulled if that is what it would take.

ARIES

Words are cheap. So, if he hasn't reformed, then one sweet text message from him is not enough reason for you and your daughter to live with him again.

If I were you, I'd give him the benefit of the doubt only if he had completely stopped gambling for two years, been spending time daily with you and your daughter, and earned kudos and a salary increase from his employer.

Sweet messages from him should only raise suspicion at this time, when you have attained financial stability by yourself and proved yourself an able breadwinner.

If you live with him again while he still has a vice to feed, you'll be a good source of its nutrient. Plus, he'll get free board, lodging, laundry services, and a woman in his bed every night.

Having your own business now proves that, more than surviving his absence, you've prospered. You don't need him as he is now, and your daughter will probably acquire better values and a better future if she does not grow up constantly exposed to his vice and your fights.

So stop being too concerned that you don't have a good marriage. For now, that's already much compensated for by your having a quiet life.

If you feel depressed, it is not necessarily because you are lonely for your husband. It may only be that you are lonely for a confidante.

Look around you and I'm sure you'll find at least one among your relatives and friends. There's always God, of course, and He's known for being always available for a chat or serious talk.

Health company launches diet supplement line

ROEHR Corp., which recently introduced the Roehr Nature + Sciences line of dietary supplements, will hold regional launchings on May 24 at Veniz Hotel, Baguio City; May 25, Star Plaza Hotel, Dagupan City; May 31, Legend Hotel, Olongapo City; June 6, Regent Hotel (Oyster Grill), Naga City, and June 7, La Trinidad Hotel, Legazpi City.

Says Roehr CEO Juan R. Rodulfa Jr., the nationwide launchings are unique business opportunity meetings for networkers, distributors, direct marketers, stocklists, medical and healthcare professionals and seasoned entrepreneurs.

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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD. "I will love and honor you all the days of my life..."

A wedding coordinated in heaven

The no-fuss ceremony went smoothly and efficiently — it must have been orchestrated in spirit by no less than the late First Lady Eva Macapagal, who made Malacañang super-efficient during her time

From page D1

Miguel Arroyo, the principal sponsors and other members of the entourage, were already inside the church by then.

Dato, with best men Rinand Maquiling and Elmer Ian-Belen, waited nervously at the front of the altar. He wore a stylized barong Tagalog designed by Pitoy Moreno.

The President and the bride's mother, Cynthia Salamon Manotok, were in bright fuchsia gowns, also by Salazar. The secondary sponsors repeated the color theme in their gowns, which had huge fuchsia bows at the back.

The march began with the Ateneo Chamber Singers, conducted by Jojo Velasco, singing "The Prayer." Violinist John Lesaca, married to the First Gentleman's sister, Marilou, played Fr. Manoling Francisco's moving "Sa Iyo Lamang" during the communion. The Bernie Pasamba Double String Quartet also played.

Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers festooned the church aisles with white roses, Casablanca liliums, lilac miraflores and Easter lilies. Wedding coordinators were the Bride's Maids & Company.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin officiated. Assisting him were Bishop Socrates Villegas, Msgr. Patricio H. Lim, Fr. Antonio Rosales, OFM, and Fr. Raymund Benedict Hizon, SJ.

BLESSINGS OF BLISS. Kakai and Dato look forward to a life together

HERE COMES THE BRIDE. With her dad, Bogie Manotok

GOOD GROOMING. A happy Dato before saying "I do"

In his homily, Bishop Villegas said Dato and Kakai's marriage was truly made in heaven because no less than the groom's late grandmother, former First Lady Eva Macapagal, was the spiritual wedding coordinator. Unaware of the significance of the date that they had chosen for their wedding, Dato and Kakai were reminded by the President that it was also the death anniversary of the former First Lady.

Bishop Villegas said "Dato and Kakai's marriage didn't happen in a flash, but through years of nurturing." The couple had gone steady for more than seven years before finally tying the knot.

The principal sponsors were restaurateur Corazon Tamayo and Arthur Macapagal, Susan Ortilla (proxying for Adelia Kruidenier) and Enrique Razon Jr., Teresa Gozon and lawyer Arthur Villaraza, Sharon Cuneta-Pangilinan and Enrique Aboitiz Jr., and Gina de Venecia and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

The maids of honor were the groom's sister, Luli Arroyo, and the bride's sister, Ma. Veronica Cristina Manotok.

The secondary sponsors were Angela Colet (proxy for Kristine Joy Amurao) and Enrique Voltaire Garcia, Angelica Frances Datiles and Andrew Felix de Castro, and Ma. Beatriz Tomas and Joselin Marcus Fragada.

Groomsmen were the groom's brother,

BEHIND THE ROYAL GATES. A vision of GMA and husband Mike

BRIDAL POSSE. A gathering of Dato and Kakai's most intimate friends and family

PETER PAN? Former President Fidel V. Ramos and shadow

KRIS-CROSSED. Former President Corazon Aquino trades yellow for pink

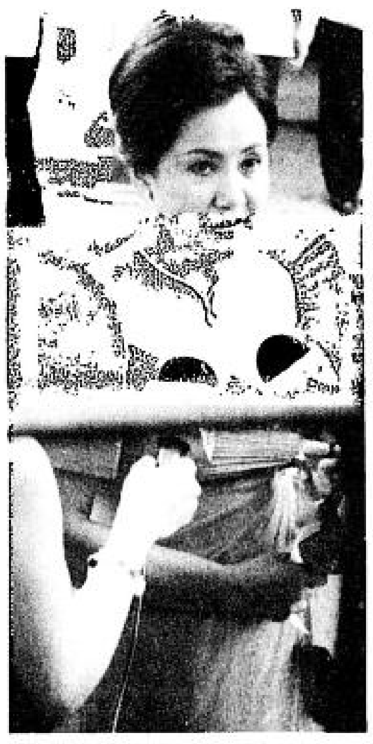
SIMPLICITY IS KEY. Secretary Joey Lina with wife and minus the two tenors

THE FAMILY THAT POSES TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER. Mikey, Angela and First Granddaughter Mikaela Gloria

GINA FROM THE BLOCK. Manay Gina de Venecia's take on J. Lo glam

FIRE ENGINE ALERT. Greg and Ela Montenegro on the red carpet

LAUGHTER through the years


GLAM MOMMA. Cynthia Manotok pulsates in fuchsia

Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, and the bride's brothers, Carlo Luis and Rufino Luis II Manotok.

The bridesmaids were Fatima Michelle Go, Joanna Reyes and Christina Navarro.

The church rites lasted only 55 minutes. Before going to the reception in Malacañang, the newlyweds and the other members of the First Family motored to the nearby Libingan Ng Mga Bayani to pay their respects to the groom's grandparents, former President and Ms Diosdado Macapagal.

Dato and Kakai will honeymoon in Europe.

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The Pleasures of a Crystal Table!

This time around, Chateau 1771 counts its years in crystal. For its fifteenth year, we raise a crystal toast in pleasure and satisfaction over all the joyous occasions our food has inspired. A crystal toast is compounded of earth, water, air and fire. Out of these primal forces emerges a gem of delicate beauty.

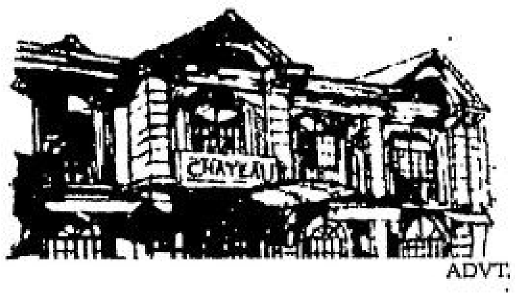
The past fifteen years are etched in our memories like the gleaming facets of a crystal. Chateau 1771 began as a small French bistro overlooking a rambling, half-wild garden in Malate. Painters Onib Olmedo and Allan Cosio would doodle in the walkways by the garden. Children skipped up and down the path; backpackers wandered in from whatever interesting places they'd discovered. For 7 years, being part of a beautiful old house was part of its charm. Chef Vicky Rose Pacheco remembers wistfully that she had the time to arrange the flowers for each table – it was that small. Newly home from hotel school in Switzerland, Vicky dazzled with French technique and hearty Swiss food. Guests reminisce over chocolate fondue and poached pears in macadamia ice cream. Because it was French, it became synonymous with romance. Engagements and marriages were proposed over its small café tables; anniversaries were celebrated there. It was also French in a larger sense: a small place with a cozy interior and beautiful view, a young chef with an intensely personal menu, made it a place people responded to instinctively. The love affairs begun there was not just between guests; they were also with Chateau.

In 1995, Chateau built an orange-brown building in El Pueblo Real de Manila on Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig. Its large French windows, sunny interiors and mix of local antiques, modern art, and Provencal pottery made a stylish yet joyful statement in its new home. Its move coincided with the migration of many businesses to the newly opened Ortigas Center. The menu grew up with this change of venue. Chateau 1771 retains favorites from the Malate menu like Raclette and Cheese Fondue. But from its French roots, Chef Vicky Rose Pacheco expanded the menu to include Asian and Italian ingredients and influences. Its signature dishes include Lemon Chicken inspired by Chinese cuisine and Pasta Chorizo which uses Filipino sausages in a delicious Italian meal. This is what Chateau 1771 calls its No Borders Cuisine.

One could say Chef Vicky Rose Pacheco has a crystalline style. There is a passionate perfection to her work; an attention to detail; a delicacy of touch that comes out in her astonishing seafood entrees. And always, in each new menu, a search for clarity – pure flavors, clear palates, the essence of an ingredient or technique rather than much embellishment.

This style has become identified with Chateau 1771 and its growing family of restaurants. The Malate site has become Portico 1771, a garden bistro with a menu that experiments with Italian and Oriental flavors. Last year, Sentro 1771 opened in Greenbelt 3, Makati. It is modern Filipino cuisine, mixing European and Asian cookery and ingredients with our own. Crystal is a good way to celebrate the 1771 kitchens' cavalcade of food through the years. The crystals in the kitchen are its most essential spices: sugar and salt. A million dashes of salt, a thousand spoons full sugar, have been sprinkled, poured and folded into fifteen years of cuisine.

Chateau will celebrate 15 years of joyous occasions by adding four more! Four parties of any shape or form: sit-down dinner, relaxed brunch, dramatic cocktails, or a hearty reunion lunch. Whatever the lucky patron chooses, it will be an unforgettable party conceived and created by Chef Vicky Rose Pacheco. Chateau 1771 will pay for all the food and non-alcoholic beverages. Each patron has two months after the draw date in which to hold the party. He may invite fifteen guests, one for each of Chateau's fifteen years.



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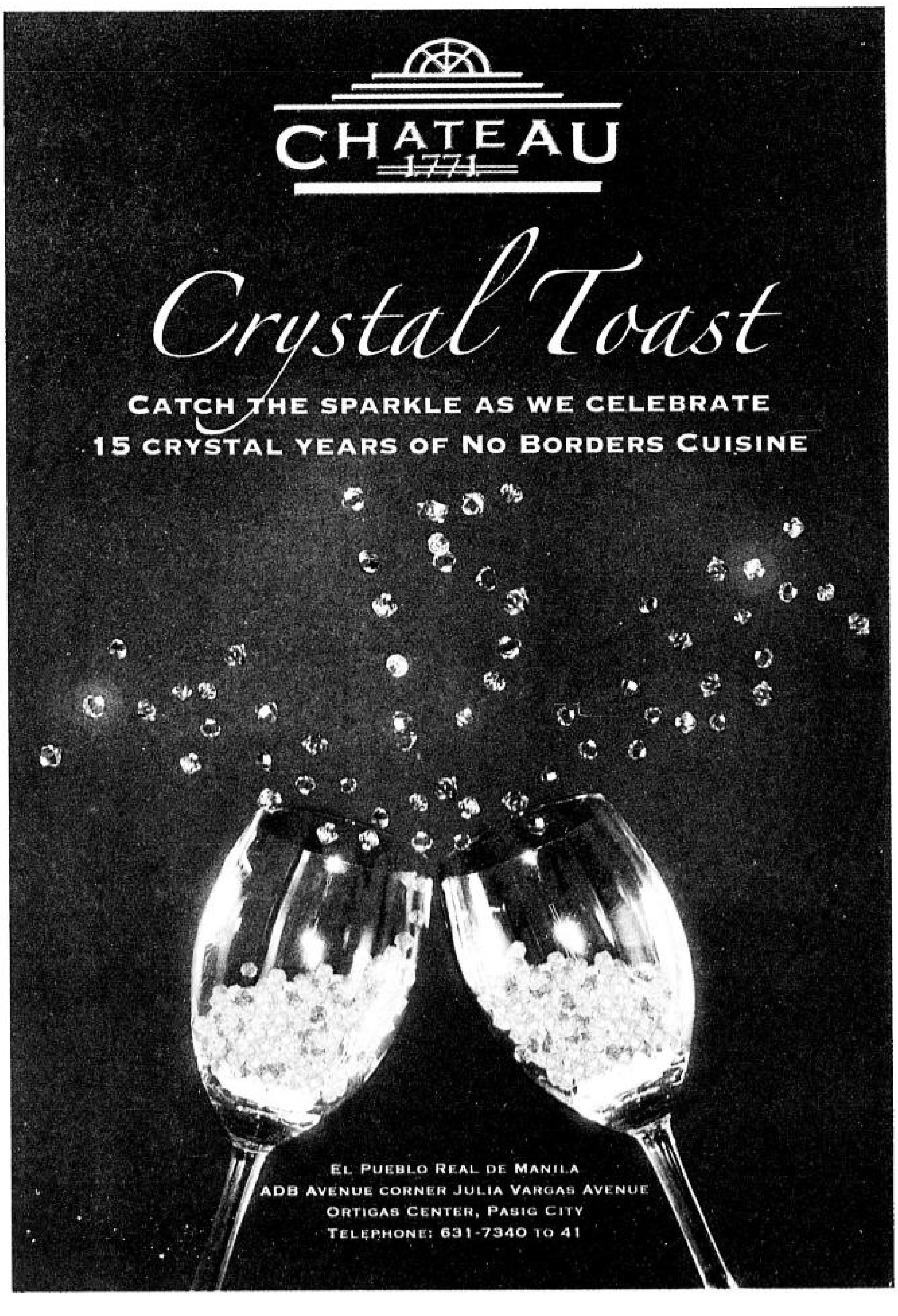
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THE BRIDE AND ME. Kakai Manotok and Tim Yap

FAMILY FRIENDS. Roy Gran and Tere Torres

DATO'S BUDDIES. Bunny Tomas, Lyn Reyes, Tina Tomas and Lala Tayag at the Malacañang Palace reception

PALACE POSE. Anne Coronel and Alex Cruz

BARBIE'S CRADLE. Maye Yao and fiancé Vinson Co Say

Low-key wedding, deep-felt romance

Text and photos by Tim Yap

"Say goodbye, when I can hardly say goodnight,
"When I can hardly take my eyes from yours, how far can I go?"

AS this song was being played, Kakai Manotok marched down the aisle of the Santuario de San Antonio with tears in her eyes, glowing in her Joe Salazar gown encrusted with Swarovski beads. When she entered, all of 650 guests gave the beautiful bride a very warm and sincere applause.

The song is the favorite of the groom, Dato Arroyo.

"I was overwhelmed by it all—we prepared for all this for a whole year," Kakai later said. "I looked at the church, saw my family and friends, and I felt so much joy."

Upon approaching the altar, Dato, in his Pitoy Moreno best, smiled at his bride. "Hey, careful, you might ruin your makeup," he teased her. And they both laughed.

The above should give the reader an idea of the relaxed atmosphere of the presidential wedding of the year.

Draped in yellow and fuchsia peonies and calla lilies, the church had a warm glow. The ceremony was very intimate and low key. The guests consisted of Dato and Kakai's very close family and friends.

In fact, according to an insider, President Macapagal-Arroyo didn't even meddle with the guest list, giving Dato and Kakai her full blessings on who they wished to invite.

"I wasn't nervous at all," Dato confessed later. "My uncles were asking why I was so relaxed. Maybe because, deep inside, I knew that we were really going to end up with each other."

When Dato and Kakai professed their love for each other, tears flowed—from their friends and relatives.

Intimate aura

At the reception, tea lights draped the whole garden of the Malacañang Palace. The ceremonial hall had a different aura, its intimidating presence softened by Robert Blancaflor's floral touches of yellow, pink and white.

A six-tiered carrot walnut fondant cake with petals and fresh flowers intertwining from the base to the tip stood beside the stage. Penk Ching of Pastry Bin went as far as showcasing the wedding monogram with smaller frames that had a gum paste candle flickering with crystals. The cake also had ribbons and big scrolls that formed a chandelier effect.

The cake was the only thing grand about the wedding, everything else was about simplicity. Right beside it was a stage where the Hyperbeat band played dance hits and Paolo Santos crooned John Mayer and Sting. Photographer Patrick Uy took snapshots of the guests as they danced the night away.

TOGETHER AND VERY MUCH IN LOVE. Mikey and Angela Arroyo in Joe Salazar

The guests were treated to endless delights from Cibo, Sugi and El Comedor. My favorite was Gaita Fores' tagliata bar, a roast tenderloin carving bar with a selection of sauces and toppings.

The drink of choice was sgroppino, lemon and strawberry sherbet with vodka and a little prosecco.

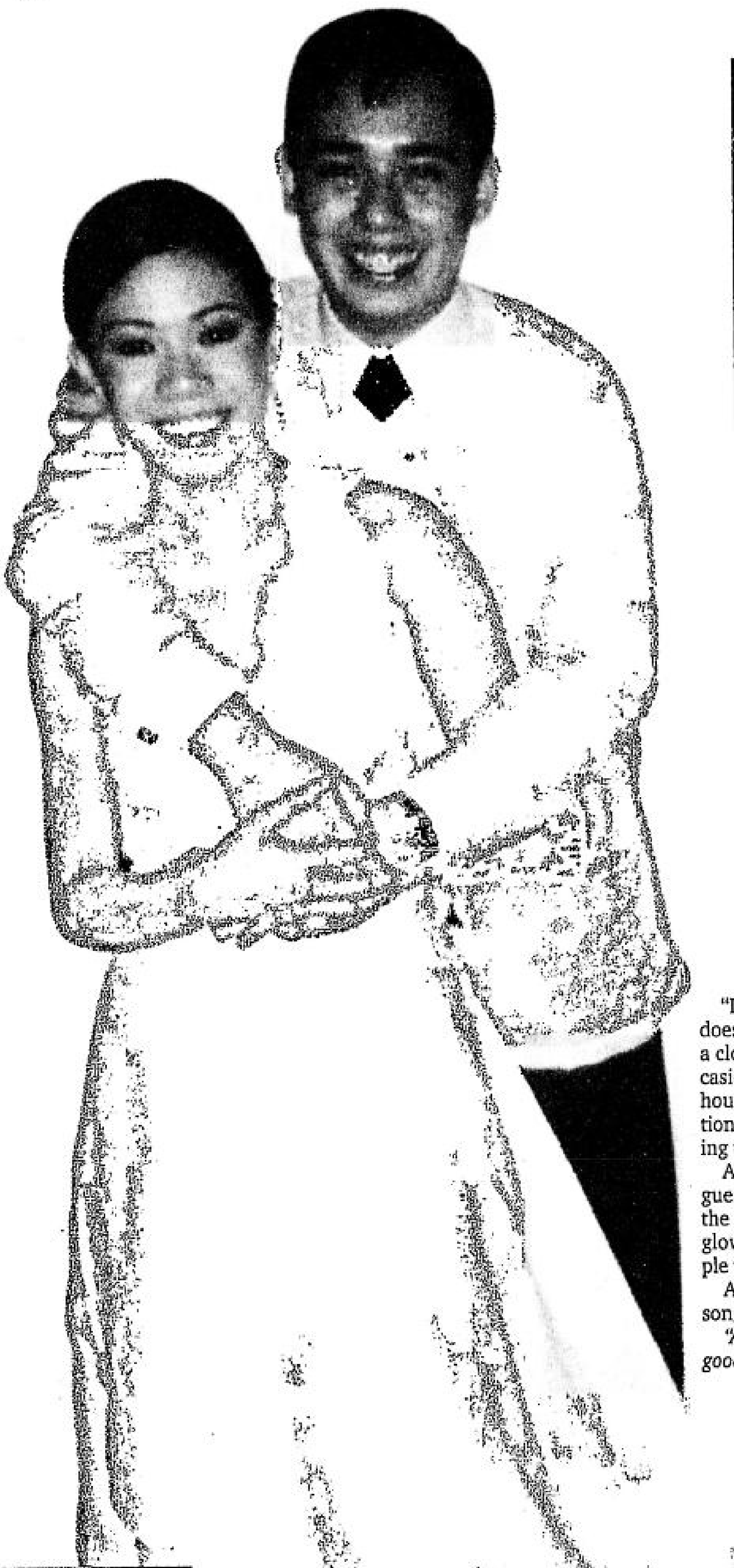
"We invited only a few people, so I thank you all for coming," Dato told the hall. "If you are here, that means you are family to me." He then proposed a toast.

That is Dato for you, ladies and gentlemen. Charming, but very sincere and really low key. I recall the time I attended his birthday party last year, where he was among friends, having a great time with grilled food and simple treats such as *isaw*. (It was the first time I tried *isaw*—and I liked it!)

Unpolitical

Strangely enough, the wedding reception didn't feel political at all. Aside from the fact that it was held at the Malacañang Palace and that GMA took the chance to do a little swing on the dance floor, everything else was very laid-back.

Of course, the ninongs and ninangs were there, from Jaza to Sharon Cuneta, but the rest were Dato and Kakai's classmates and friends.


BLISSFULLY HAPPY. Kakai and Dato at their wedding reception

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN. Fuchsia flowers and candles enhance the romantic mood.

PRESIDENTIAL DOG. Wando greets the guests in his tux.

"It's a wedding of someone who doesn't look like he's gonna run," said a close friend. So relaxed was this occasion that even Dato's lovable basset hound, Wando, was all over the reception hall, clad in his best tux, welcoming the guests with the wag of his tail.

As Dato and Kakai entertained their guests, they were obviously tired from the whole day's ceremonies. But they glowed with the happiness of two people united in love.

As the people left the palace, the song's refrain wafted lingeringly:

"And I promise you, I'll never say goodbye..."

SEXY NUDES. Leanne Florendo and Joanna Francisco

PAOLO'S ANGELS. Kakai's pals Paolo Periquet, Gina Salumbides, Gel Colet and Eli Santiago

GASTRONOMIC GAITA. Margarita Fores by the cheese station

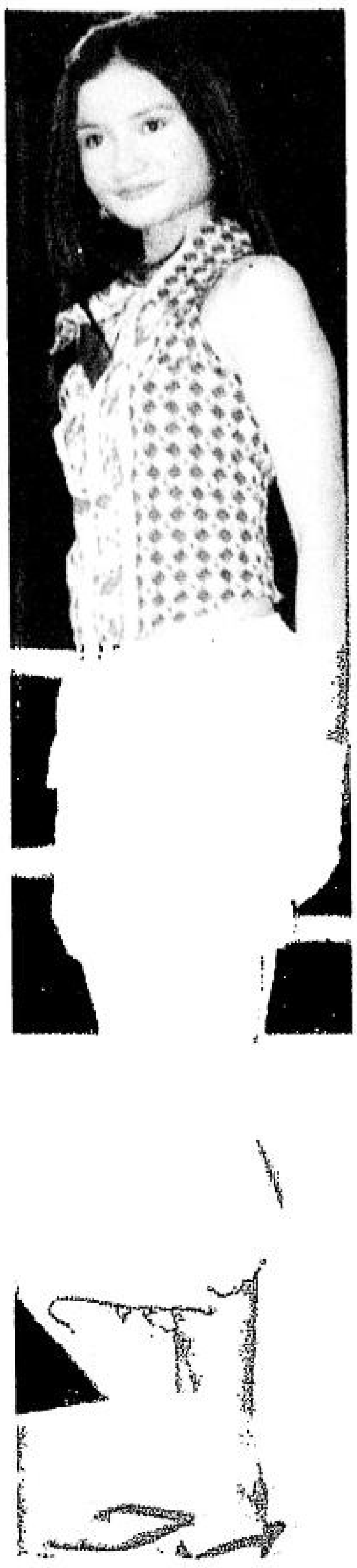
ROYAL TRIO. Dato with Michelle Yulo and Melvin Rillo

BUDDY BONDING. Andrew de Castro, Cris Salvatierra and Jazzy Gongora

GRAND DAME. Cynthia Manotok in Joe Salazar

WITH HIS OTHER LOVE. Dato pats his best pal Wando.

LADY IN BLACK. Mica Ruiz hanging out in the balcony.



GABBY Buencamino

GLADYS Llorente

Mane event at the mall

PANTENE recently launched its "Pantene Proof: The Mane Event" promotional campaign with a show at The Megastrip in SM Megamall.

The show kicked off a 10-stop tour of all SM malls in Metro Manila. Beautiful girls from colleges and universities in Metro Manila, with equally beautiful hair, became fashion stars for a night.

Showcasing the beauty benefits Pantene provides, they glided along the ramp in the latest collections from Sari-Sari and Folded & Hung. Watson's, Chalk and Pink showcased the latest trends in makeup.

VJ Joey Mead and actress-TV host Angel Aquino graced the event. Pia Guanio hosted.

P&G's Roms Chuacaedo and host Pia Guanio

LARA Monterola

KAYE Ann Bobis

Wish nila, natupad na!
EQual Pagmamahal
Kalusugan ni Baby, Kayamanan ni Mommy
N C R
BERNADETTE O. MENDOZA
North Luzon
ALICIA D. DE GUZMAN
ELVIRA F. SANTOS
SHIELA O. DELA PEÑA-SIPE
NERRIZA Z. CASIDO
South Luzon
First Prize
MIRIAM R. BAYSO
Second Prize
ARSENIA L. DATIL
Third Prize
MELISSA AREVALO
REGINA C. CAMACLANG
ANNALIZA D. TAYLO
Visayas
Mindanao
First Prize
ANITA D. GUADRASAL
Second Prize
ANN MARGARETH R. PARNADA
ANNALIZA P. POTANE
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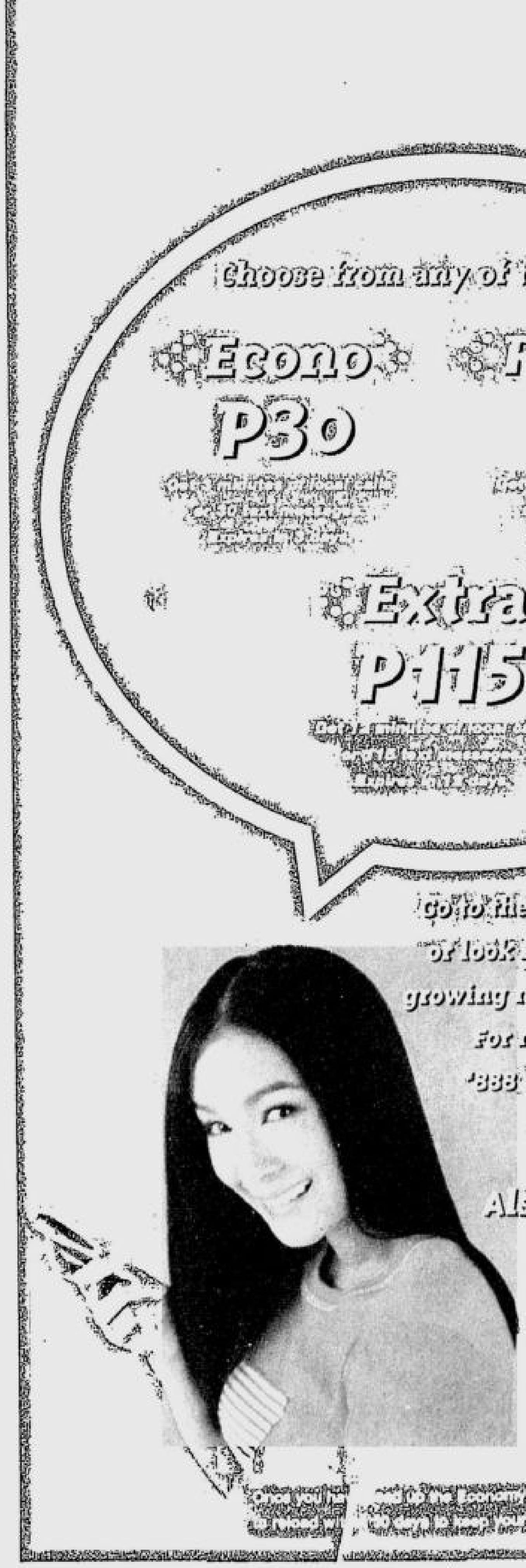

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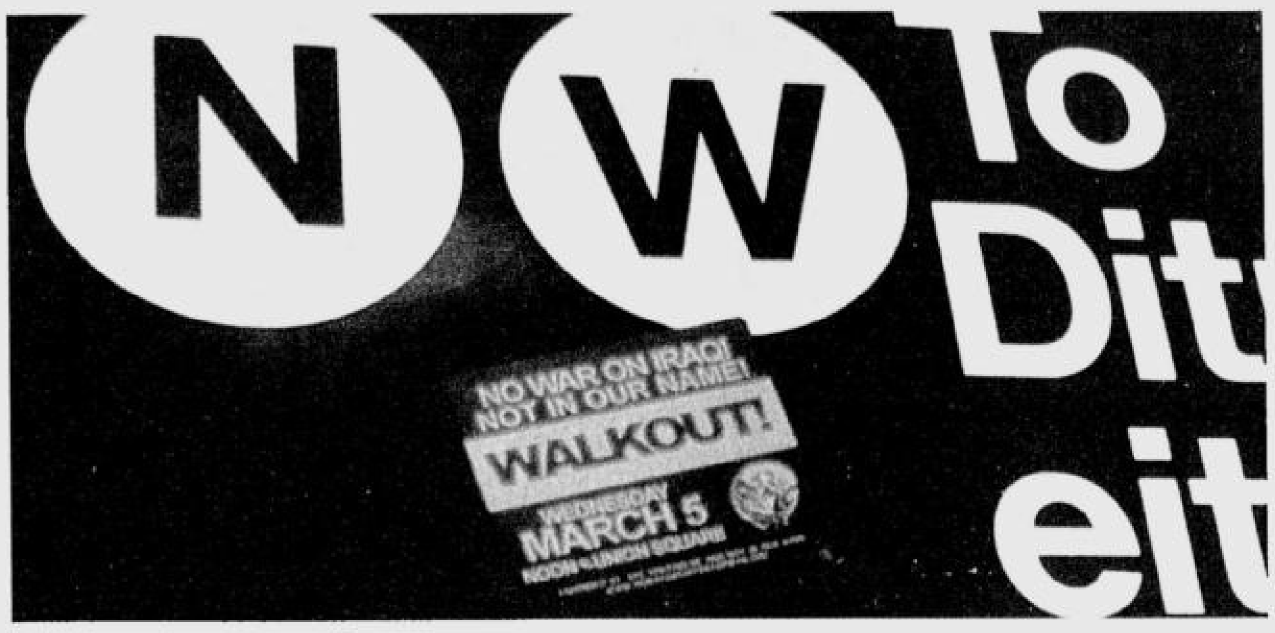
Scape Scape Sunday LIFESTYLE

PUREFOODS
Ham

Brown and bash-prone in Homeland-Security, USA



Text and photos by Robert JA Basilio Jr.
Contributor

NATIVE New Yorkers—and they include the insufferable bunch of Filipino know-it-alls in New Jersey who just arrived from Manila last week—are fond of saying that just about the only thing free in New York is the ferry ride from Staten island to Manhattan.

This is the reason New Yorkers, much like Filipinos, take their freebies whenever and wherever they can: freebies come few and far between.

Take Internet access, for instance. At the Hotel Inter-Continental Barclay in midtown Manhattan, guests are charged an hourly rate for Internet access in its business center, something which I previously thought was provided gratis by all hotels around the world, whether low-class or first-class.

But then again, this was a pricey midtown Manhattan hotel, just right beside the famous Waldorf-Astoria where Imelda Marcos rented a suite, using money that allegedly came from either the Philippine treasury or the Philippine National Bank. (Unfortunately, since my wife and I were not in any way related to anyone who owned 3,000 pairs of shoes and hung out with George Hamilton in the early 1980s, we had to pay for our four-night Barclay stay but at an employee discount rate.)

And lest we forget, the Barclay, aside from being pricey, was located in New York, where anything that had a price tag was more expensive than anywhere else (and not only because it levied an 8.75 percent tax on every single item, whether these were books or beer.)

As such, I didn't quite realize how seriously New Yorkers took their freebies until I checked my e-mail—for free, of course—at one of the branches of the New York Public Library.

I was surfing happily—free DSL access can do that to you, especially to someone who's been on a dial-up connection all his life—when a confrontation suddenly broke out between two perfectly normal-looking white middle-aged men. One had a bright yellow bonnet and a brown jacket and the other had a black jacket and a briefcase.

Mr. Yellow Bonnet accused Briefcase Boy of surfing ahead of him without ever lining up.

"You have to follow the rules and line up just like everybody else," Mr. YB shouted at BB, thus creating a scene, which everyone ignored in true New Yorker fashion.

"Hey, take it easy," said Mr. BB, attempting to touch YB's shoulder in a friendly gesture. But before he could do that, YB cut him off by pointing a finger at him.

"Don't you dare touch me," YB snarled. Then he pounded on BB's chest so hard that the sound reverberated from the inside of his lungs to the halls of the library. "You want to take this outside?" YB asked BB.

Fortunately, since everyone in New York had supposedly gotten kinder after 9-11—New Yorkers now say "excuse me" whenever they push and shove their way in the subway—the invitation was ignored and the dispute was settled inside, peacefully.

Either that or both probably thought it too cold for an outdoor fistfight. Or perhaps they were a little too eager to check their e-mail.

Meanwhile, I, the unsophisticated yahoo from Manila, managed to keep a low profile all throughout this situation. I successfully kept my hand from trembling each time I deleted e-mail messages offering free estimates on penile enlargement.

With the tension convention (to borrow a term from Kinky Friedman) resolved by a librarian who accommodated both gentlemen, I heaved a sigh of relief and welcomed myself to New York, the city where if you can make it anywhere, you can make it there, the second time around. Or words to that effect.

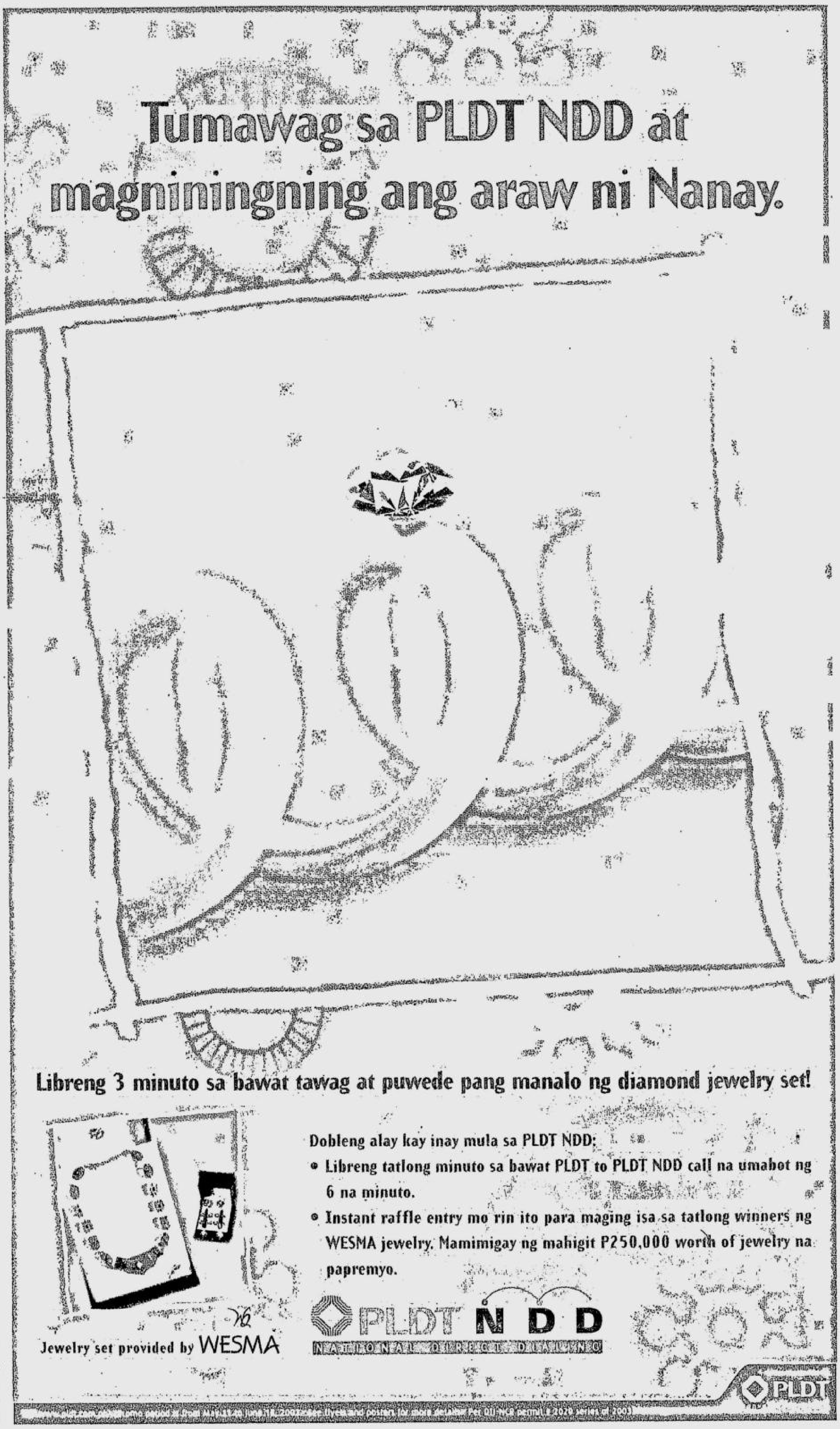
Stop spreading the news

Originally, my wife and I had planned to spend spring break in Sinatra's kind of town, Chicago, which we hadn't visited yet.

But the US Department of Homeland Security's restrictions on foreign students and immigrants and the cases of deportation discouraged us from doing exactly that.

There are just far too many unjust cases of deportation, which have gone underreported, unreported or both by the US media, for these

BROWN/ E2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Brown and bash-prone in Homeland-Security, USA

From page E1

to be dismissed as urban myths or rumors.

And although we weren't interested in getting green cards, in becoming naturalized Americans, or in staying in the US permanently, we nonetheless took precautions to ensure that we weren't on a list together with Osama Bin Laden, Abu Sabaya or Kumander Robot.

My wife and I have pretty simple goals in life: nice jobs, an apartment in UP Village and not ever being deported. I mean, how difficult can that last goal ever be?

Apparently, it can become pretty difficult. Especially if you hear about what an Indian-American woman, who recently visited her parents in India, experienced early this year.

On the way back to Canada, her flight had to stop over in Kuwait and Chicago. Then, according to the Toronto Star newspaper, while at Chicago's O' Hare International Airport, she was interrogated because, according to the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (which has now been integrated into the DHS), her Canadian passport was fake and that she bought it from Sri Lanka. To add insult to injury, the INS agents asked her why her surname was not Singh, just like all the other Indians.

When she explained her case—that she was a naturalized Canadian who visited her parents in India, that her papers were in perfect order, and that she regularly traveled to New York, Boston and Spain—her Canadian passport was stamped "expedited removal" and its front page cut.

Thus, not having a legitimate travel document, the poor woman, a loan officer at a major Toronto bank, was sent by the INS on a plane back to Kuwait, even though she hardly knew a soul there.

Fortunately, through the kindness of a pilot in the Kuwait-bound flight, she was able to fly back to Canada and was able to file a suit against the INS, which we hope she wins.

Her surname, incidentally, was Cruz, which is my wife's surname. Her first name is Berna.

Superstitious as this may sound, we took this as a sign and stopped spreading the news that we were visiting the Windy City, even though our passports and visas were perfectly legitimate. (And let's not get started about the time my wife's acquaintance way back in UP Manila's medicine program was held by the INS in DC because she had a PDA. The INS kept asking her why she had a Palm for an hour or so that she missed her connecting flight.)

This also partly explains why we took the bus to NYC, something we swore we would never do again after a bad bus trip to Washington DC last Christmas.

Aside from it being too late to get cheap plane tickets, flying while brown in the US nowadays is the new driving-while-black. Meaning, if you were brown-skinned and about to board a flight, you're about as likely to elicit the authorities' suspicion as a black person driving a car.

What's wrong with a black person driving a car in the US, supposedly the freest country in the whole wide world, you ask?

Nothing, except that you are a person of color and statistically more likely to be stopped by the police than if you were white. Which was exactly what happened to us while we were being driven around by a black friend of ours in Pittsburgh last year.

But being perennially optimistic, my wife and I took all these issues in stride, the same way we took our sudden and unplanned visit to NYC. I mean, if my wife and I were going to spend March in New York, wasn't April in Paris a distinct possibility?

We certainly hoped we weren't deluding ourselves.

Thirteenth floor

We arrived one mid-morning in March from Pittsburgh, after a nine-hour bus trip which wasn't half as bad as we expected, except of course if you just had back surgery. But then again—and I apologize for the redundancy—slouching in a bus for nine hours made you feel that you just had back surgery.

Nevertheless, despite our bad backs, we managed to crouch from the Port Authority Bus station to the subway and check in at our 13th-floor room at the Barclay.

And what a room it was.

It came with a fully-stocked mini-bar—wine and whisky, beer and brandy, altogether in one personal fridge that would make Erap and his midnight Cabinet members go all weepy for their legendary Malacañang nights.

The room was also fitted with cable TV, net TV (a CPU-like console was attached underneath, accompanied by a wireless keyboard, and cost $17.50 per hour to use), coffee-maker, ethernet Net access (a pity we didn't bring our Mac laptops) and, the most interesting amenity of all, an eight-dollar intimacy kit, which was nothing but a condom or two in a fancy box.

Except for cable TV, we didn't take advantage of any of our room's amenities. We knew that just opening a packet or bottle of anything would cost us an arm, a leg, plus probably an additional pound of flesh to cover taxes.

My only problem with the room was the full-sized bed. It was about three feet from floor level, with mattresses piled up so high that it looked like the bed in the "Princess and the Pea." We may not have felt anything stuck in between the mattresses, but every time we took a nap, it felt like an expedition to Mount Everest.

There is nothing worse than being an amateur shutterbug in a museum, what with the prohibition of flash photography inside its premises. This is an experience that I have grown so accustomed to that I have given up taking a picture of anything inside a museum, be it a painting, a sculpture, or a preserved leftover meal (one of which was left by surrealist Marcel Duchamp when he had dinner one night in the 1960s, and which I vainly tried to take a picture of. Incidentally, if you think that a 40-year-old leftover meal is unsavory, think about all the used chewing gum littered on New York's subway stations, some of which I'm sure are older than Kuya Germs.)

TIMES Square, where Broadway, Seventh Avenue and 42nd Street meet, is also known as the "intersection of the world."

PAMELA Anderson looks on from her Times Square perch.

No photos, please

And since my wife and I couldn't take pictures using natural lighting, we were only able to look at a couple of pages of Leonardo Da Vinci's notebooks at the Metropolitan Museum of Art without ever preserving that memory on film.

The prohibition on flash photography is followed to the letter at the MMA. I saw one museum staffer tell one whole family to stop taking pictures of themselves in one of the museum's cafés. They were taking pictures in the café, for crying out loud, where the only things on exhibit were coffee, bagels, fruit, tables, chairs, and some pretty old human beings, who weren't very well preserved at that.

To make matters worse, especially for souvenir freaks like us, the MMA didn't have a free brochure of the Da Vinci notebook exhibit, unlike most of the other galleries.

Instead, the MMA compiled and replicated Da Vinci's every single sketch and put them all in a colorful, hardbound and handsome coffee-table book whose price was roughly equal to a semester's worth of tuition at UP.

But visiting the exhibition was well worth it.

According to the MMA, this was the first time all of Da Vinci's sketches were exhibited in one museum. Other displayed sketches were on loan from museums in Austria, France, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, the UK, the US and Vatican City. Da Vinci's sketches on display included studies of the human skull using an illustration technique—interior on the left, exterior on the right—which is still being used today.

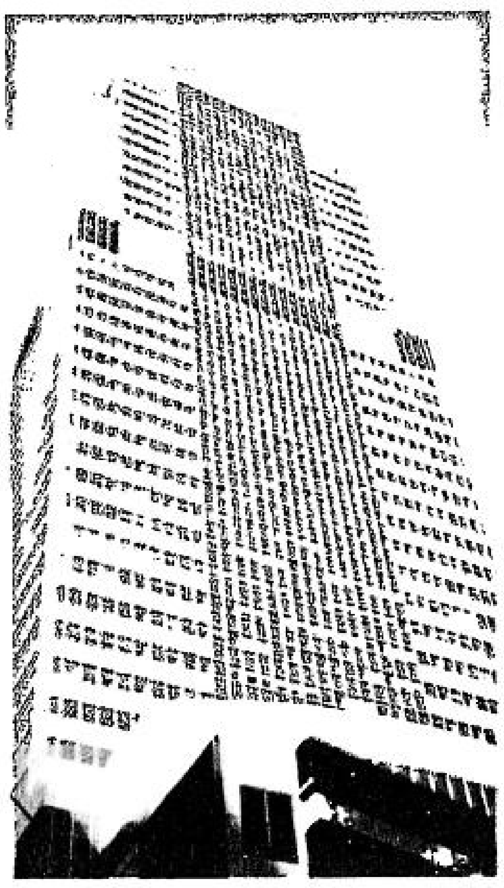
The exhibit also included several pages of the "Codex Leicester," owned by Bill and Melinda Gates, in which Leonardo wrote copious notes about his theory of water.

Aside from prohibiting flash photography, the MMA also installed hygrothermographs at every corner of all the viewing galleries. Looking something like machines which measure earthquakes, the hygrothermographs were installed to make sure that people who didn't know what they were for—like me, for instance—were given the impression that these gadgets and the exhibits they protected were not to be fooled around with.

And since the Da Vinci exhibit was one of the MMA's crowd-drawers, it controlled visitor entrance by grouping guests into 10 to 12 per batch.

In the meantime, for NYC's upper-class kids who refused to mingle with the great unwashed to see Da Vinci's sketches, a special exhibition was scheduled for a $50 fee per head.

Four days and three nights in the Big Apple, and we're rarin' to go back for more—despite the anti-foreign, post-9/11 paranoia



A MODERN skyscraper

Still, $50 fee or no, Da Vinci clearly remains popular centuries after his death. In fact, such is his popularity in our era that his character is included in a number of "Star Trek Voyager" episodes, which is currently shown at the Hallmark Channel at 11 in the evening every day in Manila.

Kiss me, Kate

More often than not, such "Star Trek Voyager" episodes with Da Vinci involved Captain Kathryn Janeway running her holodeck program on the fastest starship ever, Voyager, which, to me and my friends, is the best ever in the "Star Trek" series. Sure, some fans say they watch "Voyager" for Seven of Nine (played by "Boston Public's" bodacious Jeri Ryan) but not this fan.

I watch "Voyager" for Janeway, played by Kate Mulgrew (two characters who both have their own fan sites). As the captain of a 150-crew starship lost in the unchartered Delta Quadrant, the tough yet motherly Janeway is able to take her crew back home with a little help from the Borg.

Only someone like Mulgrew, who has a string of acting achievements to her name, could ever play someone like Janeway.

This is why I convinced my wife to accompany me to see Kate Mulgrew live in "Tea at Five," a two-act play about actress Katharine Hepburn at the Promenade theater, during our third night.

When Mulgrew, as a young Hepburn, came out on stage the first few moments, I literally had to pinch myself on the arm to convince myself that, finally, I had been where no man—at least those in my circle—had ever gone before: in New York and watching Captain Janeway onstage.

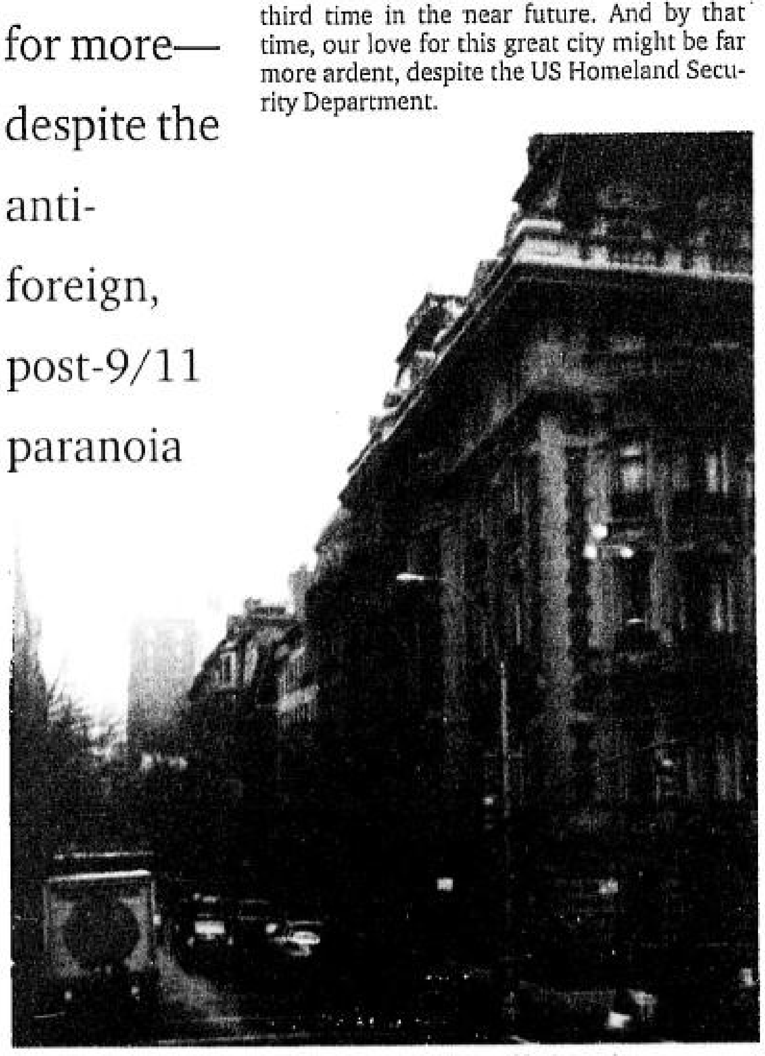
But my enthusiasm reached new heights when we saw Mulgrew's performance during the second act. She was fabulous, playing an elderly Hepburn who walked with a cane and who trembled involuntarily.

I knew next to nothing about Katharine Hepburn; I didn't even know that she was not related to that other famous Hepburn—Audrey—but after witnessing Mulgrew's acting prowess, I tried to find out all that I could about the famous, multi-awarded actress she played.

Indeed, whether she was Katharine Hepburn, Kathryn Janeway, or just plain old Kate Mulgrew—who, incidentally, is married to the governor of Ohio—I couldn't help but care about the character she played.

For this, and for all other things that my wife and I experienced in New York, I'm thankful that we visited the Big Apple when we did. It's not every day that you see Da Vinci's sketches and see a Star Trek Captain, all in one four-day, three-night vacation. Yes, only in New York.

They say love is sweeter the second time around. Frankly, we can't really know for sure. Because we're visiting New York for a third time in the near future. And by that time, our love for this great city might be far more ardent, despite the US Homeland Security Department.



TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY buildings give New York its character.

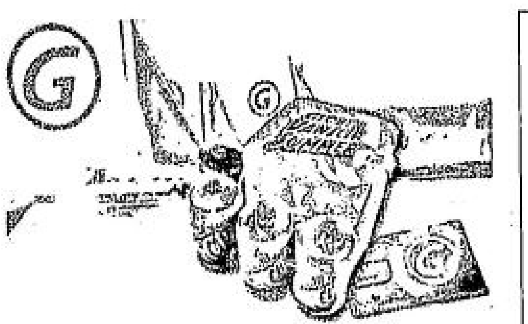
'May madness' ongoing at Westin

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza has an ongoing promo called May Madness. Stay overnight in one of the luxurious rooms for as low as P3,700 net with buffet breakfast for two this month and get another overnight accommodation absolutely free anytime during the month of June. Amenities include access to The Westin Sports Club and Spa with complimentary use of the hotel's spectacular lagoon-shaped swimming pool.

Fill your days with endless thrills at the swimming pool, relax at the spa, play tennis or drive golf balls straight into the sea.

Valid for local residents only, rooms are subject to availability. Free room does not include breakfast. Rate is not applicable with other promotional programs, packages, discount cards, corporate or group bookings, or meeting and convention packages. Prior reservation is advised.

Call 832-6991 to 95 or the hotel trunkline at 551-5555.



Promo offers free trip to Boracay

ENJOY Vanilla Coke when you upgrade or buy a Globe Hi-Memory SIM Pack in a promo dubbed as Globe's Vanilla Summer.

Until May 31, purchase of any Globe Prepaid SIM pack entitles you to a free Vanilla Coke Globe Edition Pack. To claim this inquencher, make an initial chargeable call on your newly-purchased Globe Prepaid SIM within the specified promo period. Upon doing so, you will receive a text message containing promo information from Globe 2977 the next day. Present the text message at any participating SM Supermarket, Caltex Star Mart or Julie's Bakeshop outlets nationwide to claim your Globe Edition Vanilla Coke. Redemption period is until July 31.

New Globe Prepaid subscribers who made their first call within the promo period are entitled to win a free trip to Boracay. To join, text in REG <space> name <space> address and send to 2994 and you will be assigned one electronic entry number. Each Globe Prepaid SIM will receive only one raffle number. The electronic raffle will be held on June 6.

There will be five grand prize winners of an all expense paid trip for four to Boracay. The winners' package include round-trip tickets, four days and three nights hotel accommodation and P50,000 pocket money. Prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. The trip should be availed on or before Nov. 30.

Intensive Journal workshops

THE INTENSIVE Journal, a method of keeping a journal for your life, will be given in three workshops from May 26-31 at Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, Campo Sioco, Baguio City. The facilitator of this retreat is Sr. Dolores M. Mitch M.M.

The three workshops, which are sequential, can be taken in six days. The Intensive Journal method, based on Holistic Depth Psychology, was created by American psychologist Dr. Ira Progoff. It is a neutral method which can be used with any religious or philosophical orientation.

The three workshops are:

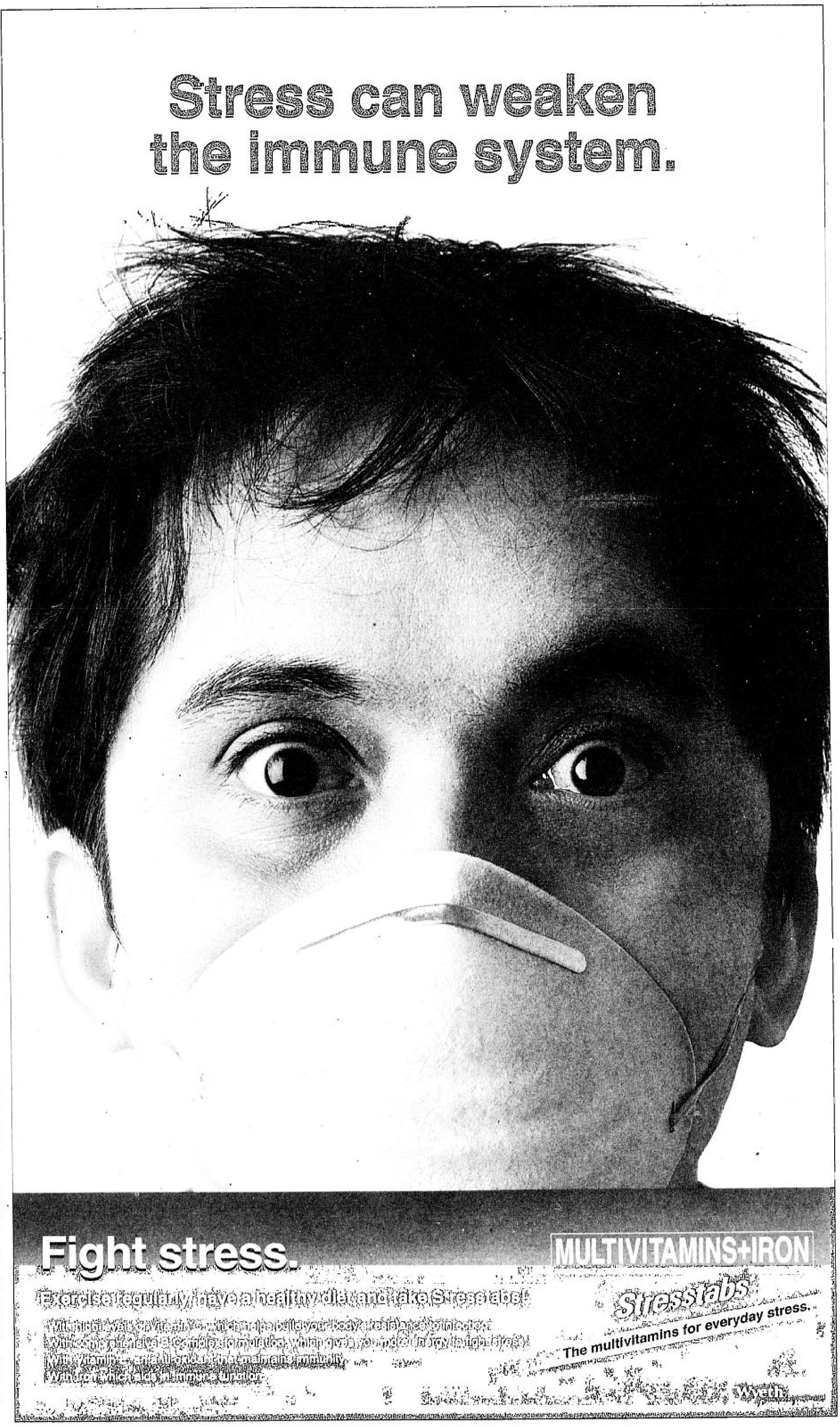
Workshop 1: Life Context (May 26-27) aims at gaining a perspective on your life. In it you look at your life history, relationships with other persons, work, body, religious beliefs and decisions you have made.

Workshop 2: Depth Contact (May 28-29) deals with the symbolic level, dreams and imagery, as well as what gives meaning to your life, or the spiritual aspects of life.

Workshop 3: Life Integration (May 30-31) uses the unique tool of journal feedback to help you integrate various aspects of your life as the process of self-development unfolds.

The daily schedule runs from 8 a.m. to noon and 2-5:30 p.m. Accommodations for board and lodging are also available.

Call 442-4602 and 442-4926 or e-mail mksbag@moscom.com


Stress can weaken the immune system.
Fight stress.
Exercise regularly, have a healthy diet and take Stresstabs!
With high levels of Vitamin C which helps build your body's resistance to infection.
With complete and active B-Complex formulation, which gives you added energy to fight stress.
With Vitamin E, an antioxidant that maintains immunity.
With Iron which aids in immune function.
MULTIVITAMINS+IRON
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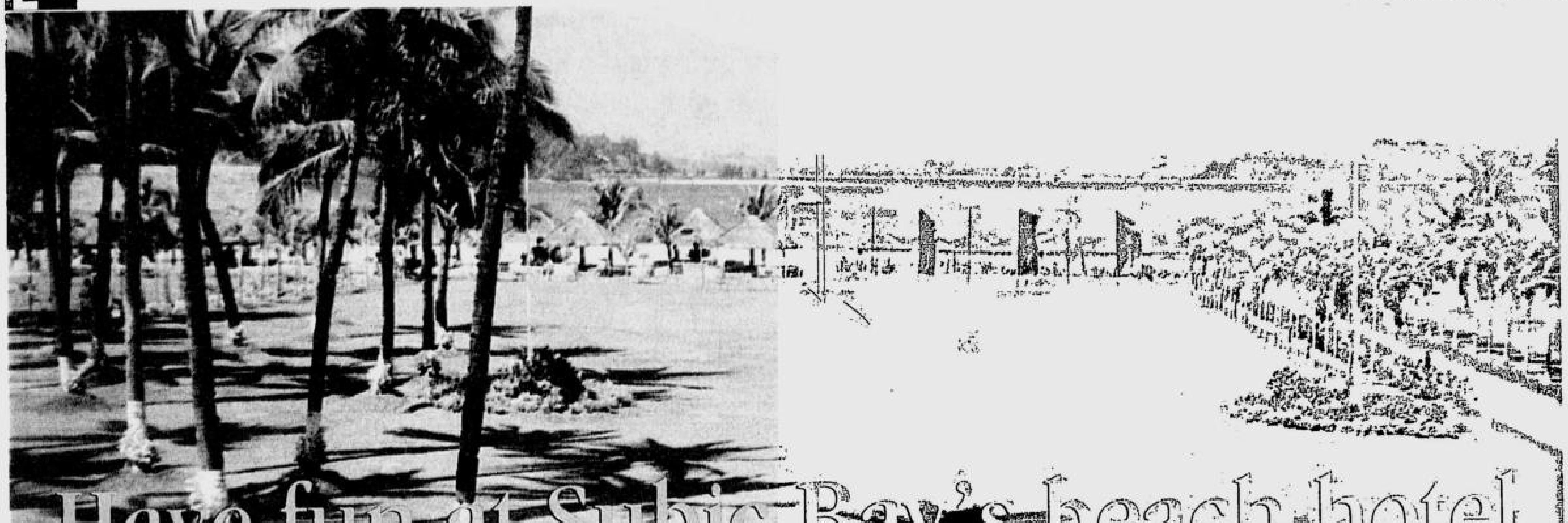
The multivitamins for everyday stress.
Wyeth



Have fun at Subic Bay's beach hotel

SUBIC Bay's White Rock Beach Hotel has been transformed into a world-class resort.

Complementing the beach area is the well-manicured lawns with palm trees that offer both shade and privacy.

Located 20 meters fronting the beach are 15 newly-constructed modern beachside rooms equipped with international amenities. With the new rooms, White Rock now has 130 rooms—37 beachfront rooms and 93 hotel rooms. Man-made waterfalls also provide an imposing picture.

Another noticeable improvement is the pool area, enhanced by the greenery and waterfalls that offer a cool vista. A poolside restaurant has been opened along the swimming pool area. It offers a wide selection of Asian and Western dishes. A new pool, exclusively for hotel guests or private parties, has also been added.

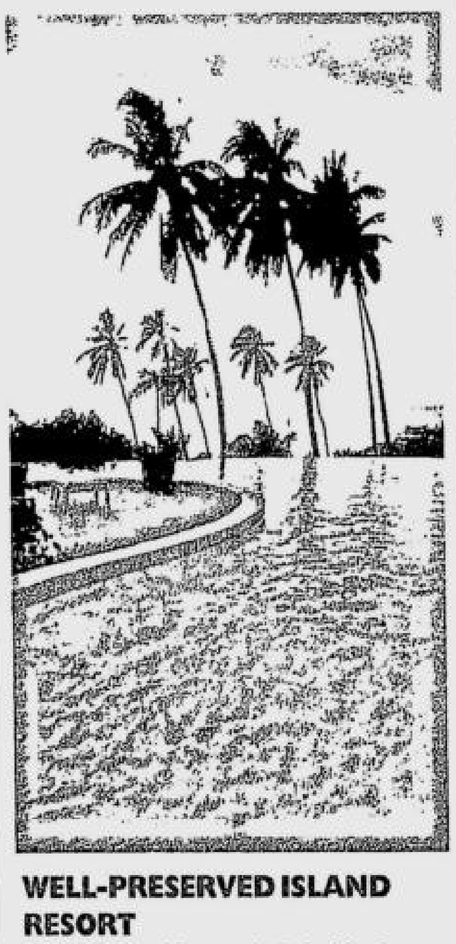
Guests can enjoy nonstop entertainment with regular bands every weekend at the new KTV lounge and dinner, dancing by the beach, while children can play in an open playground and in-house playpen or enjoy videogames in the recreation center. Entertainment packages for various occasions are offered, at very affordable rates. For corporate affairs, White Rock has a set of packages to accommodate various seminars in the resort's conference room, which can house 15 to 500 participants.

Health and well-being needs are also addressed with the resort's wellness center that integrates a salon, spa and health and beauty bar.

A trip to Subic Bay won't be complete without engaging in watersports. White Rock has expanded its watersports activities, backed by a new partnership with Greg Waterworld for the management of the resort's watersports center along Subic Bay. With the new partnership, watersports enthusiasts visiting White Rock can now enjoy jet skiing, riding a banca, aqua cycling, paddleboating, banana boating, waterskiing, snorkeling, and parasailing (on special arrangements). The resort also plans to offer scuba diving.

White Rock Beach Hotel is a 5.9-hectare resort complex nestled along the coastline of Subic Bay, just a two-hour drive from Balintawak toll plaza passing through national highways, farmlands and mountain scenic spots.

Call 421-2781, 421-2782 or 421-2785 or visit www.whiterocksubic.com.



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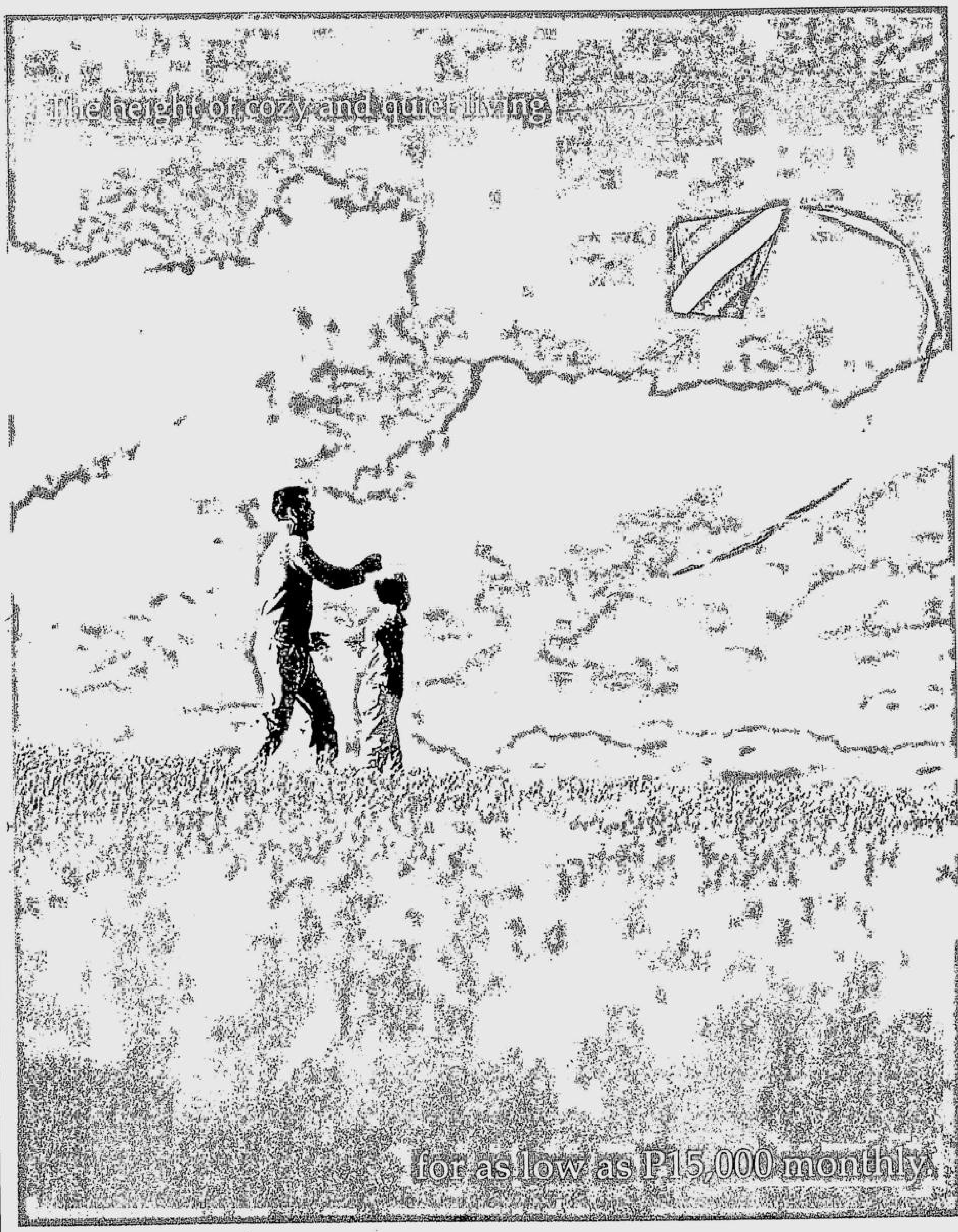

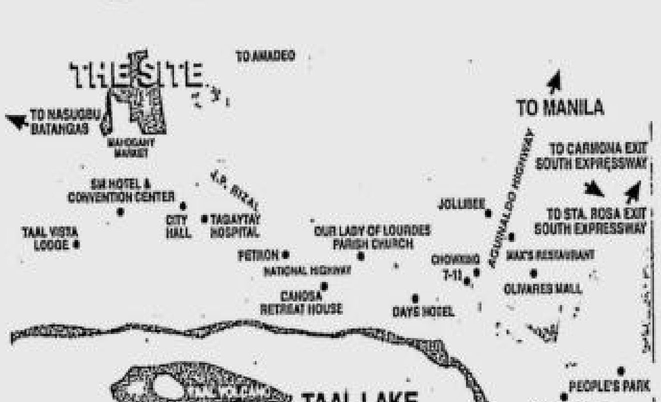

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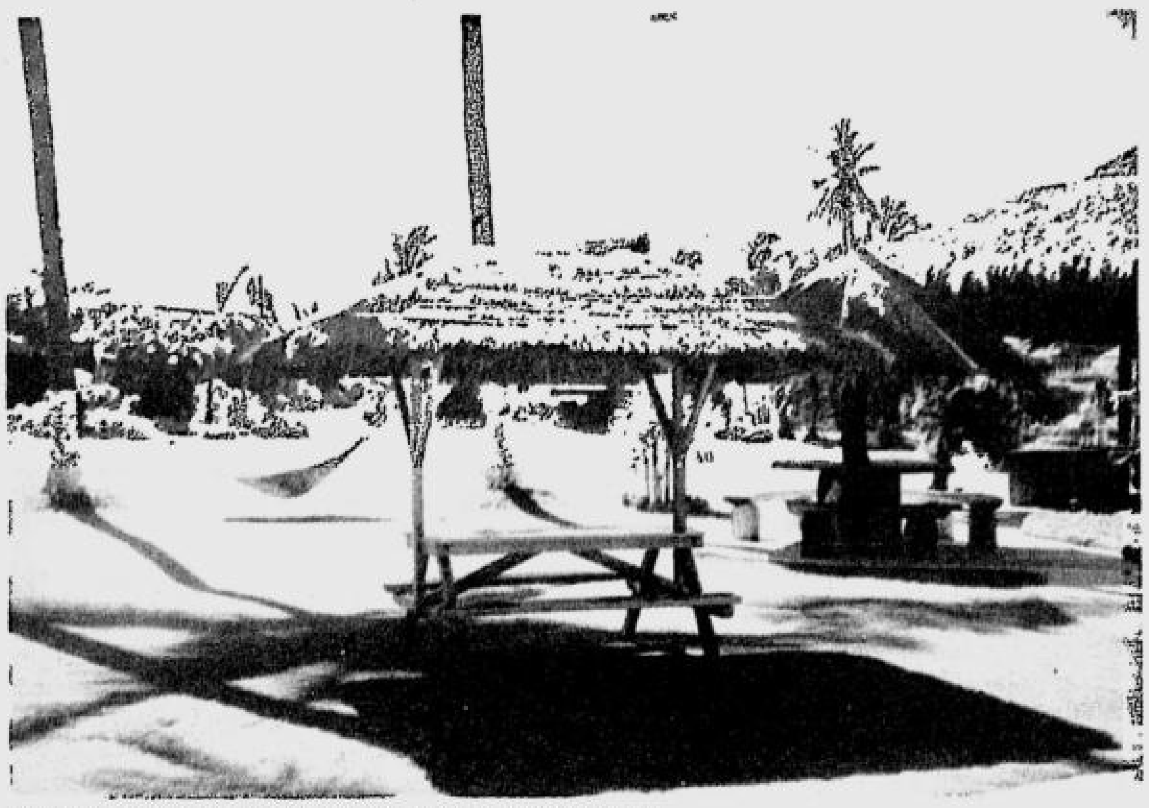

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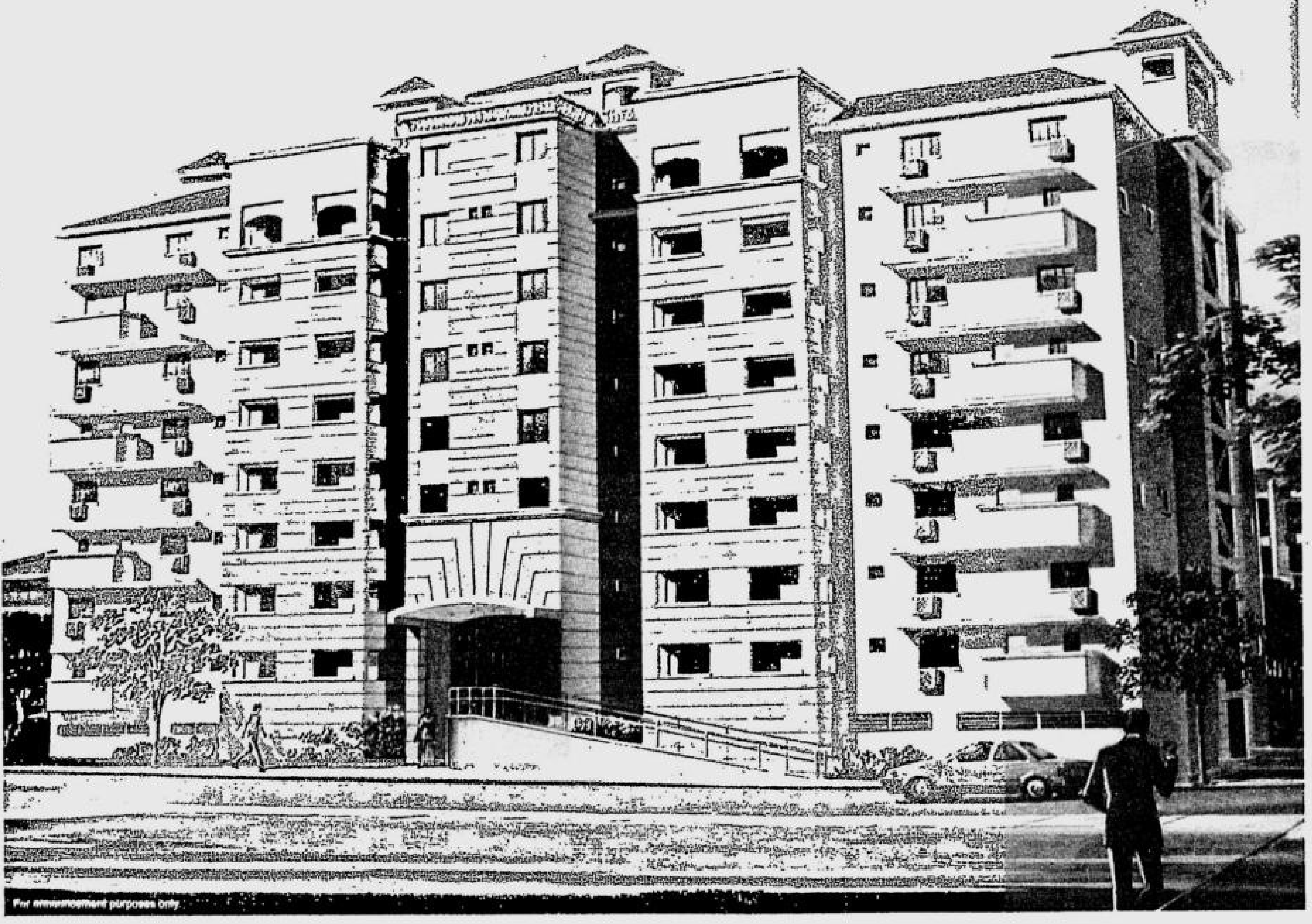
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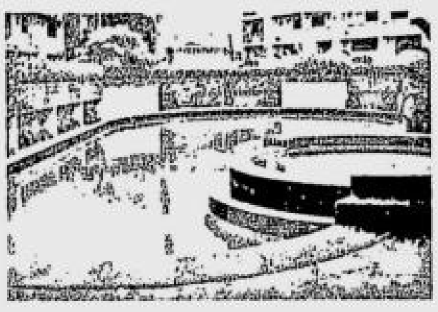

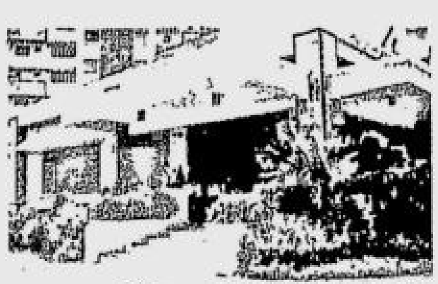

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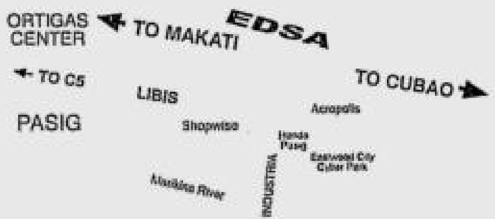

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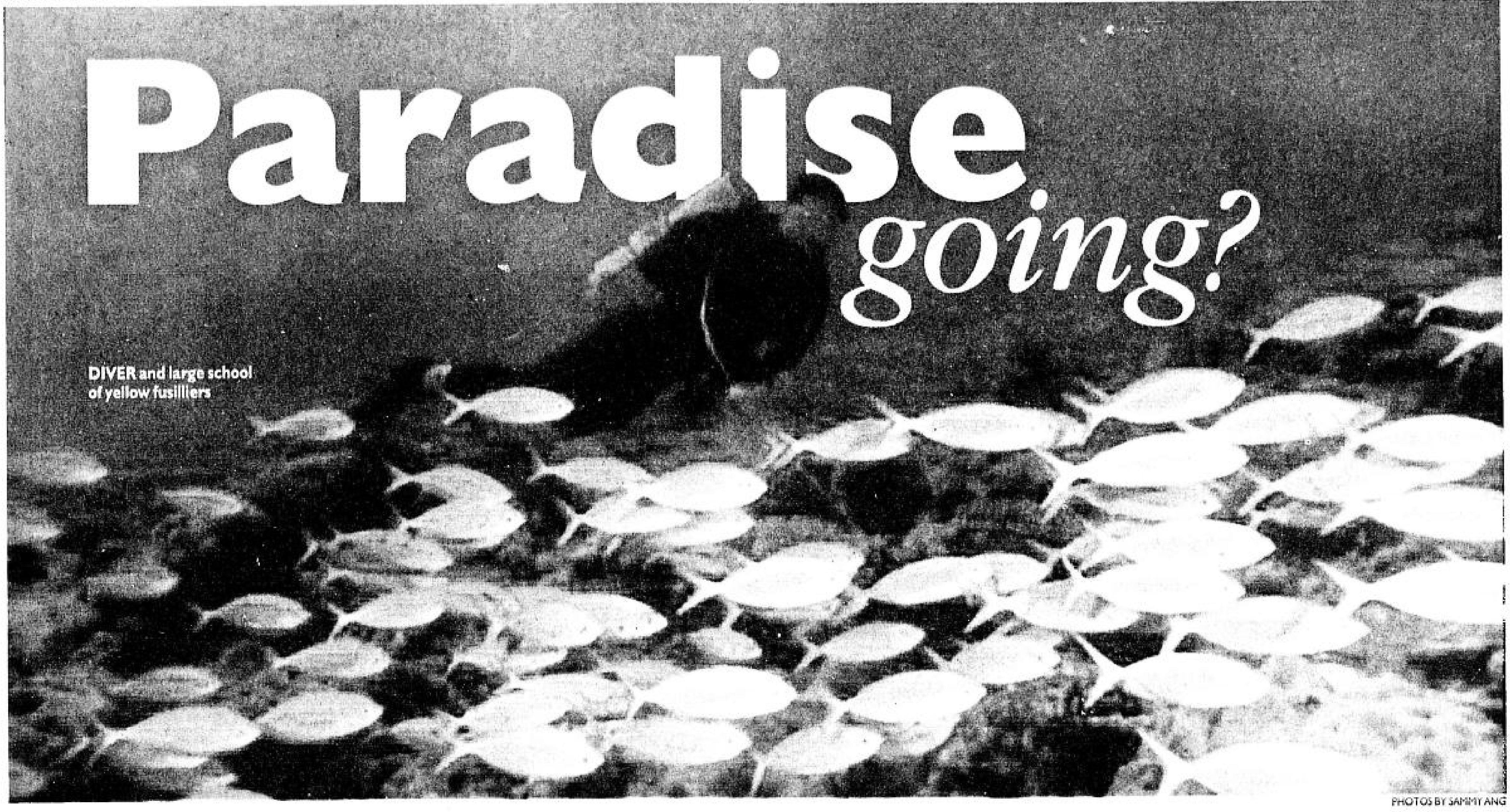
Paradise going?


DIVER and large school of yellow fusilliers

PHOTOS BY SAMMY ANG

By Alya B. Honasan

FROM THE top deck of our dive boat, the gorgeous teakwood Maleesha, the waters around the Ari Atoll in the Maldives appear as rings of varying shades of blue, ranging from a pale cool hue that almost fades into white, to a dark mysterious blue-green. In fact, as far as you can see, it's nothing but a palette of blues and greens—sky and sea, green trees—and the blinding flash of white beach.

The Maldives is home to the finest beaches and dive sites. But if global warming is not stopped, they won't be around for the next generation

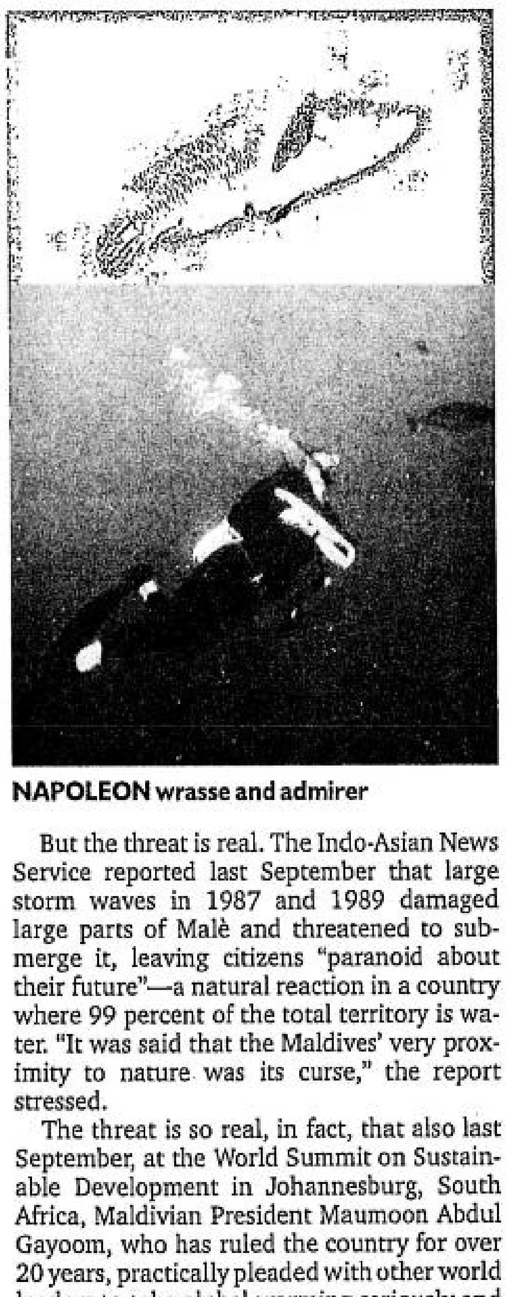
For us Filipinos, denizens of an archipelago with our own world-class beaches, the feeling is mainly nostalgia for what places like Boracay or Siargao must have looked like a lifetime ago, before the bars opened. But it's evidently otherwise for the Europeans who come here, arriving in the tiny two-square-kilometer capital of Malè on direct flights from cities like Milan and Vienna.

"This," my companions observe, "is really a white man's paradise."

We're here for a different reason—to check out the famed island from beneath the waves on a seven-day scuba-diving safari across its largest atoll or ring-shaped coral reef—but that doesn't mean we don't gasp at the colors of the sunset in the unpolluted sky, explosions of magentas and oranges, or marvel at the fine white sand of islets that never even get to bury an empty mineral water bottle (to their credit, the crews on boats that ply the islands are serious about leaving nothing behind). Standing on the beach in the aftermath of an island barbecue, however, I notice how little difference in height there is between the edge of the water and the lush growth of palms and bushes at the center of the island. All it takes is one big wave, and the whole natural garden is drenched.

Which brings me to the sad fact that got us here, instead of the dozens of other possible dive destinations closer to home. The Maldives, evidence suggests, is sinking. With the environmental scourge of global warming that is melting glaciers and raising the sea level, some scientists are giving these 1,190 coral islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean no more than 50 years before everything goes under.

It's like a bad dream nobody wants to discuss. When we ask Ali Niyax, our dive master, if the islands are indeed sinking, the 23-year-old Malè native shrugs and says, "No." It's not something he'd dwell on; in a Muslim country where a man is allowed to get himself as many as seven wives (if he can afford them), the amiable Ali is already working on future wife No. 1.


NAPOLEON wrasse and admirer

But the threat is real. The Indo-Asian News Service reported last September that large storm waves in 1987 and 1989 damaged large parts of Malè and threatened to submerge it, leaving citizens "paranoid about their future"—a natural reaction in a country where 99 percent of the total territory is water. "It was said that the Maldives' very proximity to nature was its curse," the report stressed.

The threat is so real, in fact, that also last September, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who has ruled the country for over 20 years, practically pleaded with other world leaders to take global warming seriously and support the Kyoto Protocol, the international agreement calling for an end to the large-scale emission of gases that are wreaking havoc on worldwide weather.

"A mere one-meter rise would mean the death of a nation," Gayoom told the Washington Times, warning that such an occurrence "would be catastrophic and possibly fatal, forcing Maldivians to be relocated elsewhere."

It has gotten so real that Malè is building its own "Great Wall" around the city, a three-meter-high structure of four-legged concrete blocks stuck together like a jigsaw puzzle rising off the seaside road. The wall, when completed, is envisioned to reach five kilometers long. A large-scale prototype of the block, called a tetrapod, sits like a curious landmark along the road we passed on the way to our waiting boat, and it took a while to figure out what it was.

"That wall will save us from the waves," our taxi driver said with certainty.

There is little evidence of the fear in downtown Malè, where locals hang around the town plaza near the Great Mosque and the presidential palace, and where many souvenir shops peddle T-shirts, beachwear and wood carvings. Malè is like a tropical Venice without the ancient history; water taxis line the pier and regularly shuttle people to the city from the airport and neighboring islets.

Because of the small population—about 270,000 people living on only 200 of the 1,190 islands—the human pressure on the marine life is minimal. The last tragedy to befall the corals was the widespread bleaching of 1998, brought on by the increased temperatures of El Niño—again, an environmental threat, the kind the Maldives is most susceptible to.

With few people around to bug the guests, however, luxury resorts and spas like the Four Seasons, Club Med, the Hilton and the ultra-tony Soneva Fushi have sprouted up, offering the ultimate five-star tropical escape (think Robinson Crusoe with a masseuse and a valet).

The diving, of course, is fabulous. The 104-foot Maleesha is just one of many boats that take divers to numerous walls, slopes, a great wreck (the Victory) and dozens of *thila* or pinnacles, the most common kind of dive site topography in the Maldives. These underwater towers, usually lopped off at the top, offer nooks, crannies, channels and plateaus bursting with marine life.

The dives are intermediate in difficulty, and the best action happens in ripping currents. At the world-famous Maaya Thila, a protected dive site that's been ranked one of the top 10 in the world, it's a sensory overload as white tip sharks, eagle rays, barracuda, and schools of fish compete for your attention; we had to strain our eyes to see one another during our mandatory five-minute safety stop before ending the dive, as clouds of snapper, surgeon fish and fusiliers were literally in our faces. At the Bathalamaagaa Kan Thila, we again hung on at 70 feet as a strong current sent a parade of fat gray reef sharks parading close enough to touch; we stopped counting at about 20.

We left Malè on a Sunday night after seven days of sun, sleep and 20 excellent dives, lucky that our Singapore Airlines flight wasn't among the many trips cancelled in the wake of SARS. Eating ice cream and staring at the pier, I said goodbye to the Maldives—and honestly wondered if the place would still be around for the next generation to experience.

SPECTACULAR sunset

Camiguin revisited

By Chic Fortich
Contributor

WHEN I was young and still could see/I never really saw her beauty/My eyes were darkened by a mushroom cloud/That hung over her like a shroud/Through the years, as my vision faded/Farther and farther I strayed/Until Camiguin, to me, became/A dim photograph without a frame/When finally blind I dared return/Smirking and ready to scorn/Now, no Hibok-hibok can scare me/For, indeed, nothing I can see/But, to my great surprise/I found I did not need my eyes/For I could hear the splash of the Falls' cool waters/I could smell the vegetables and flowers/I could taste the sweetness of the mountain air/And I could feel the hope that was in the people there/And I could only share in the laughter/Of the children who drew nearer and nearer/To Hibok-hibok, for it had become/A loving friend to everyone.

I am often moved to poetry when considering the island of my birth, Camiguin. Even during the years when I feared its awesome, terrible power, there was always a bit of nostalgia hiding somewhere in the back of my mind.

The lines above encapsulate what I felt when I visited it recently.

My friends—Marlboro Adventurer Chi-chi Abellanosa and his wife, Maite—and I traveled from Cagayan de Oro to Balingoan, a tiny port town in eastern Misamis Oriental. We got there just in time to catch a roll-on-roll-off-type launch.

During the trip, I asked if there were dolphins playing in the sea. But there was none, I was told, for the sea was a bit rough.

When the sea is calm these gentle dolphins come out to play, often getting close to the launch and jumping high above the water. The people in the launch cry "Ay!" in reply to the dolphins' greeting.

When it is sunny a dolphin will be swimming close to the side of the launch, flying fish even closer, and sharks following in their wake—all acting like the launch's escort.

In an hour, we reached Benoni, the port barangay in Camiguin. Many young boys used to dive for coins thrown into the water, but now, perhaps because the launches are bigger, there were hardly any.

While waiting for our ride in the waiting area, I noticed that the air smelled cleaner: no more heady toilet smell. A nice change, I thought.

Our van came, and we were on our way. Shortly after leaving Benoni, I waited for something to happen to the van. There had always been a brief stretch of road that got submerged in the water. The vehicle would sway, and you could hear the swishing of the water underneath.

But it didn't happen. I made inquiries, and the driver, Joel, and Flor, the woman from the local tourism office, both laughed.

Flor said the road around the island was now entirely paved in concrete.

The first town we passed was Mahinog, which was hit in 2001 by a huge water spout that killed more than 200 people.

I listened to the local folk, and they didn't sound like they had been struck by a calamity. And what about their lanzones?

Flor told me that the govern-

CAMIGUIN/ E7

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Magayon Festival

ALBAY province celebrates its Magayon Festival with month-long activities, including musical events, an art exhibit, a book fair, cultural presentations, food fairs, a *santacruzan* and many more.

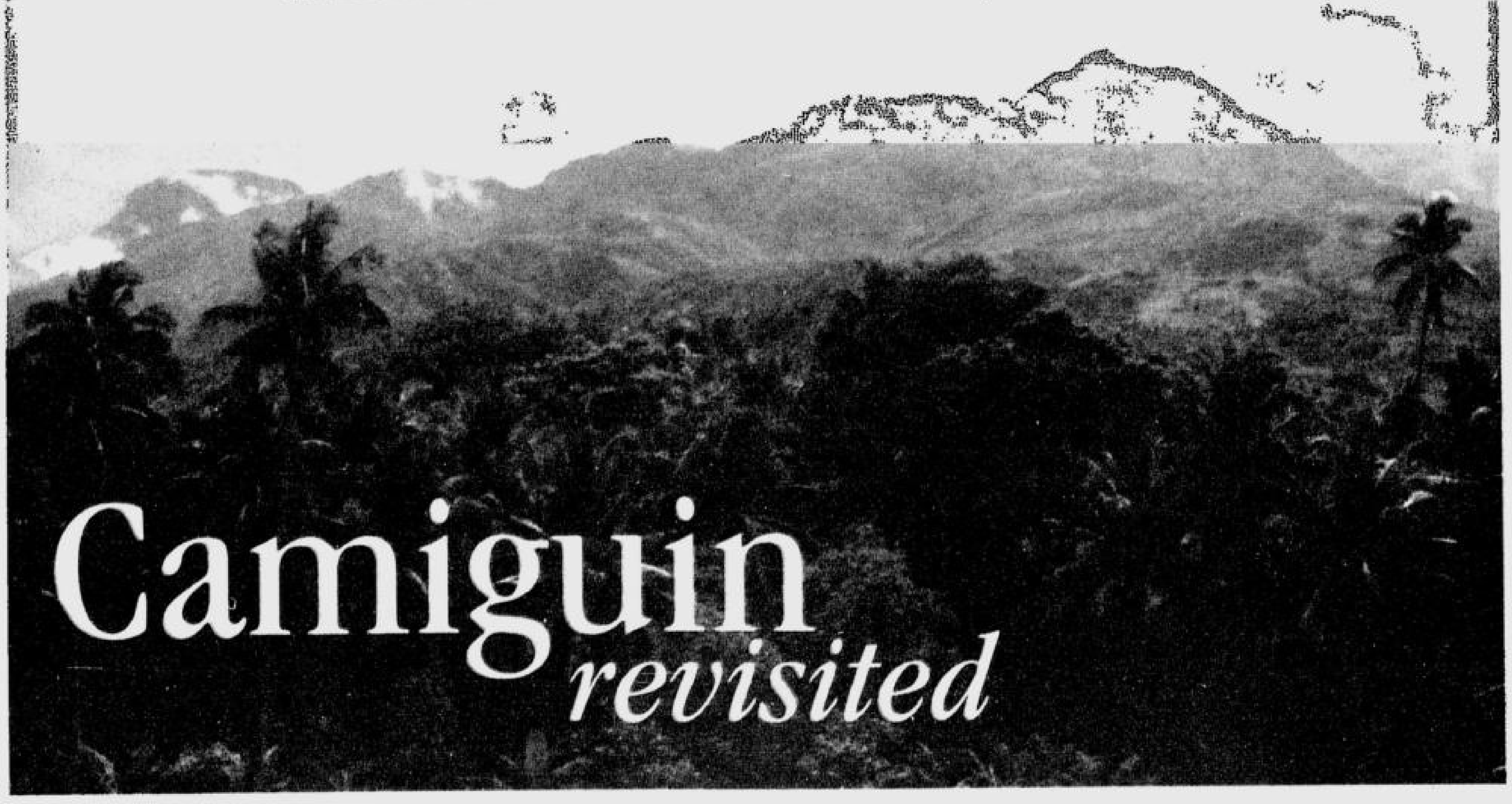
Billiards enthusiasts will get a rare treat when Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante go one on one on May 28. Other sporting events are an all-star basketball match and a climb of Mounts Malinao and Masaraga.

Local tour operators have also organized "Lakbay Albay," visits to Spanish-era churches, ancestral homes, archaeological museums, and local craft makers, among others. For inquiries, call 0917-388-0247 or 052-820-6314/15.

'Bangus' and Globe

TO GO with Dagupan City's month-long Bangus Festival, the Globe Telecom Business Center (GTBC) in the city is offering the Nokia 3530 free on new G-Mix and higher plan subscriptions. The G-Mix plan covers 100 minutes of voice calls and 350 free text messages.

The Bangus Festival, a brainchild of Dagupan Mayor Benjamin Lim, promotes Dagupan milkfish as a global produce and the city as "bangus capital of the world." GTBC Dagupan is located at the Carried Lumber Bldg. on MH del Pilar Street.



Camiguin *revisited*

MT. Hibok-hibok in repose

From page E6

ment had allotted considerable resources to the island, and that there had been much rebuilding. The lanzones trees were still standing, but it wasn't the season for the fruit yet.

My mind, however, was filled with visions of bunches of the Philippines' sweetest fruit.

Farther on, I knew there was something impossible to change: a gigantic boulder on the roadside, disgorged by an erupting volcano, next to a two-story house smaller than it.

We made the next turn and there it was. No crane has managed to lift it from its place.

You see, Camiguin has seven live volcanoes, and the island itself is the eighth one. The last one that erupted is Mt. Hibok-hibok, the one on the side of the highest peak, Mt. Timpoong, and directly above Mambajao, the capital town.

It erupted in the early morning of Dec. 4, 1951, my parents' 25th wedding anniversary, producing smoldering lava flows and a cloud of black, roiling smoke.

I had watched from our window as the cloud grew. Even now, I can recall the boiling mass smearing the clear blue morning sky.

That black steam would grow until it covered the entire island and plunged us into sudden darkness. Columns of it could cover a man and, in a split-second, leave him a shrunken barbecue, still standing in the same position. The lava flows devastated everything in their path.

More than 1,000 people died then, and most of them had to be buried in mass graves.

That was the horror that had driven us from our island. Those were the visions that had clouded my mind from the island's beauty, until I became totally blind.

Now we were entering Mambajao, the capital town, which I knew by heart (save for the new buildings). We had a sumptuous lunch at a place beside the bank, followed by a brief meeting about our itinerary.

Then we were off to my grandniece's place, Camiguin Action. Barbie Gallardo and her partners catered to tourists who wanted adventure. We left Chi-chi with her, for they intended to go rappelling along the sides of the Katibawasan Falls.

My idea of doing the waterfall was to bathe in the wide pool beneath it, and take in the wonderful fragrances of the tropical flowers lining the pool's periphery.

Being an island, Camiguin offers varied pleasures—deep sea waters and the rich marine life to observe; a few smaller islands; White Island, a large sandbar that constantly changes shape; and the inland attractions (waterfalls, hot springs, cold springs, and rain forests teeming with tropical flowers and orchids).

I wanted to take a *habal-habal*, or single motorcycle, and drive up to the Phivolcs office at the end of the cement road donated by the Spanish government. That would get me closer to Hibok-hibok.

There are people living there now, in Itum, the barangay closest to the volcano. And they are planting various crops of fruits and vegetables.

"Aren't they afraid of the volcano?" I asked.

"Maybe," came the answer. "But the soil is fertile, and the temperature is cool. And the vegetables grow large."

I pondered this for a while. Cool, healthy air for the children. Very rich soil to plant in, soil that saw the volcano's wrath more than 50 years ago.

Now, the volcano seems to love the people. I wondered: Has it transformed itself into a gentle monster?

"Fruits and vegetables," Gov. Pedro Romualdo proudly told us the following day. He meant mangoes, durian, and, soon, seedless lanzones.

He cited Vice Gov. Domingo Talian as "our best example—he has, aside from fruit trees and vegetables, also a poultry that supplies the whole province with eggs."

Wow! I thought. Soon, Camiguin will be self-sufficient, no longer relying on Cagayan de Oro for its food supply.

All because what used to be terrible volcanoes have now become like lambs.

But I had another question: What if Timpoong decides to blow its top?

The people smiled wryly: "Then we'll all be gone."

Oh, well. We all die, anyway.

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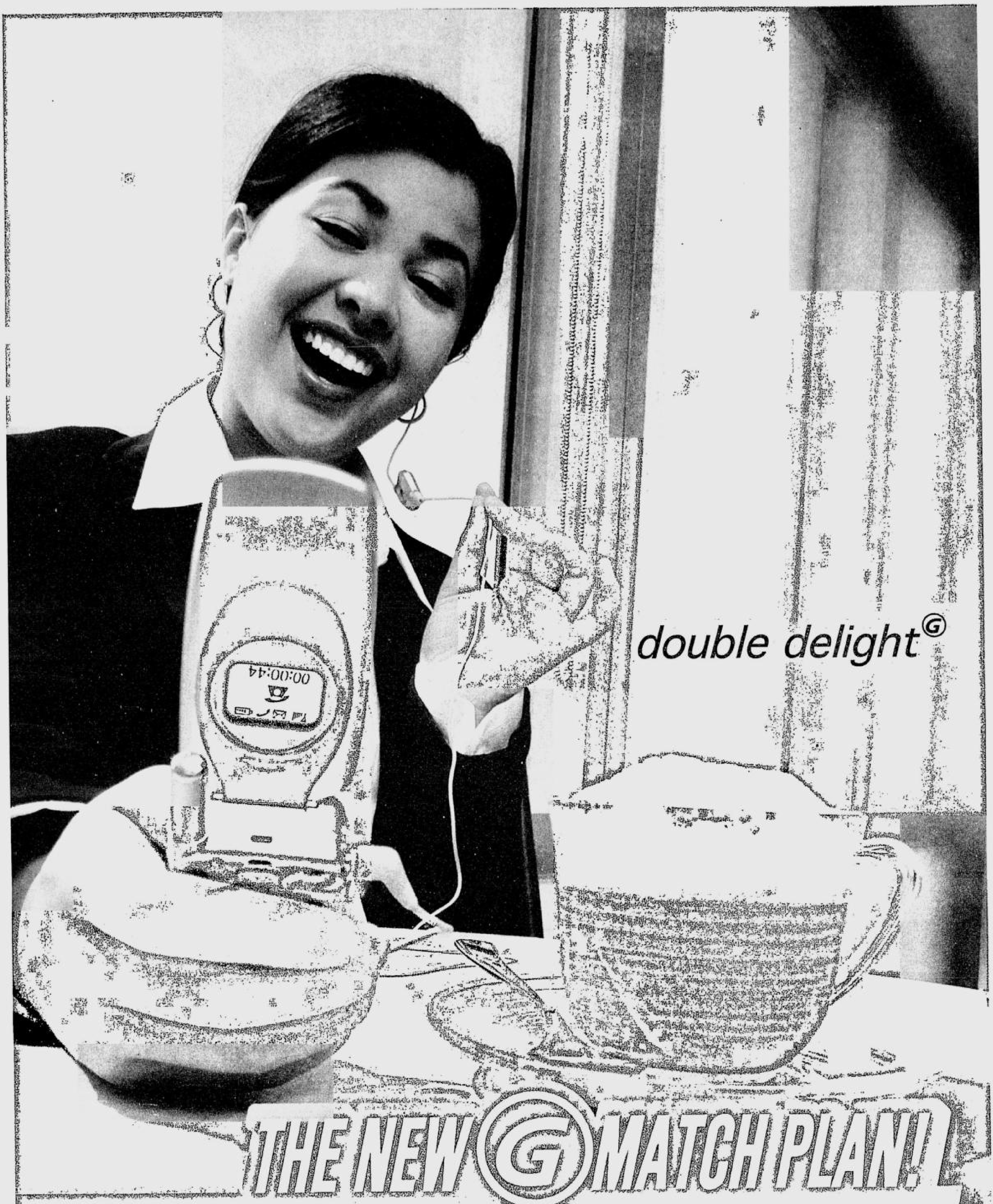

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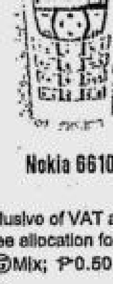
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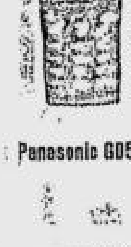
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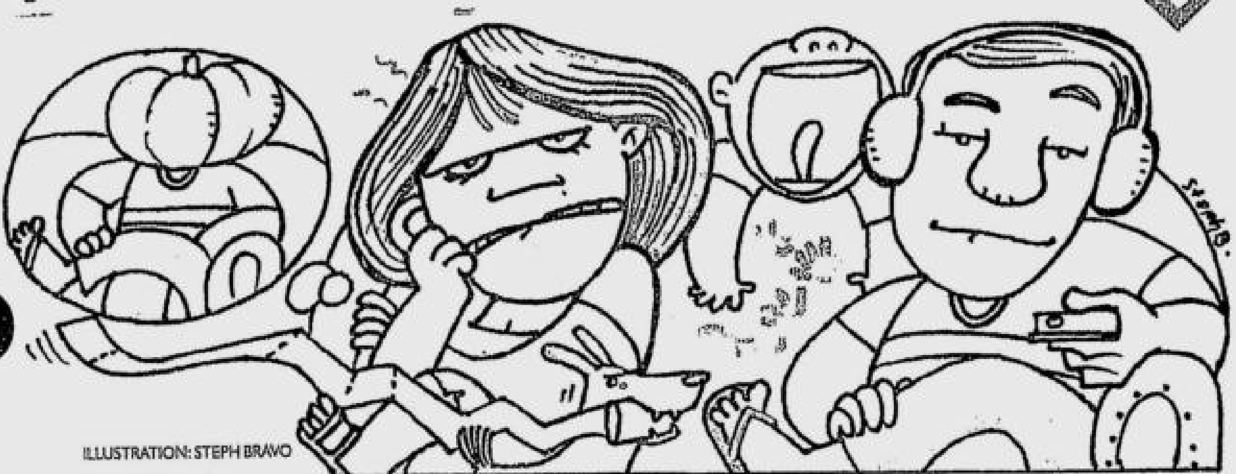

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

> 'I will not be happy unless I am doing what I really want to do'

By Frieda Co-Amanzo
Contributor

I STARTED thinking about leaving my husband in 1973, five years into my marriage, the year I turned 30. The romance had gone to the back shelf together with the wedding photographs. The sex had become routine. I had grown weary of keeping house and having only the maids and the children to talk to. I had discovered that how little he knew nor cared to know about helping out around the house. City born and bred he didn't even like staying around the house. He preferred going out with his friends. Besides, there were all the little irritating faults that soon piled up in my consciousness, overlaying all the sweet things I loved about him.

It was also about this time that my friend Josie sent me from Chicago all her back issues of MS magazine. These showed the way toward a more serious read of the books by Betty Friedan, Kate Millet and Simone de Bouvoir, et al. I soon realized why all the creative arts (sewing, painting little stationeries, papier mâché,etc.) I was into gave me so little satisfaction, though I did them well enough.

I talked to my friend Leo about my "unhappiness" and he said I will not be happy unless I am doing what I really want to do. First, I must find out what that is. And acquire the requisite "five hundred pounds" in the bank and a room of my own to pursue it.

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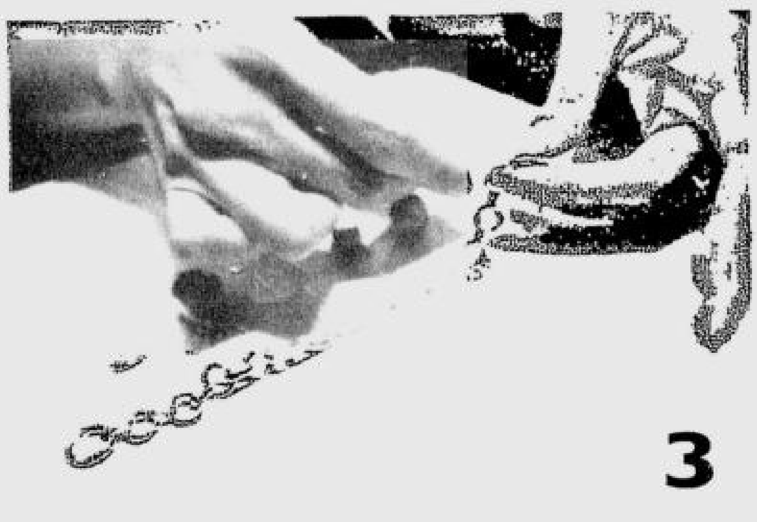
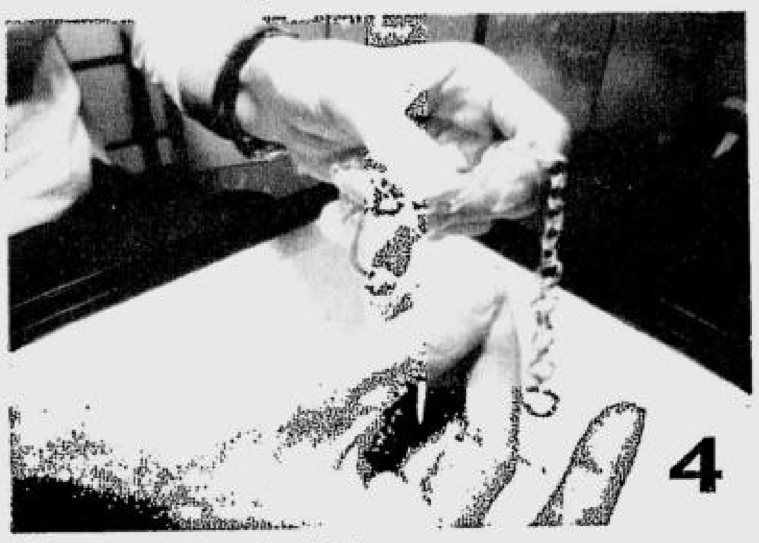
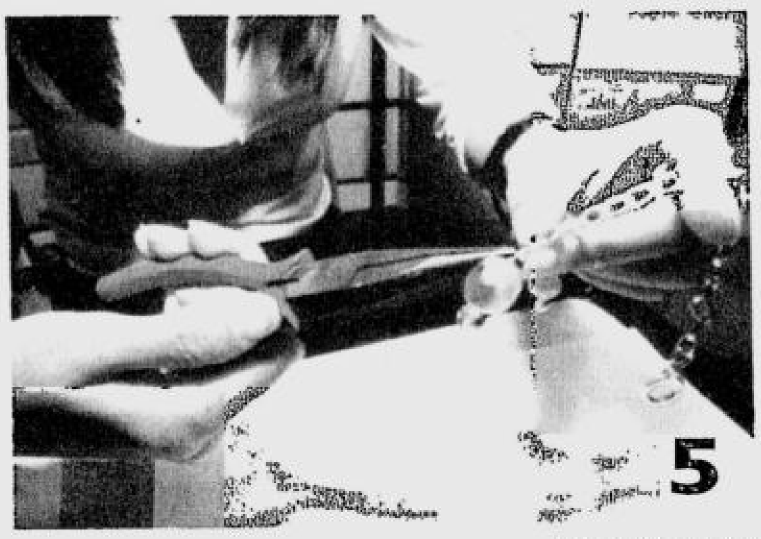


HOOK wire into the chain link



PULL, bend and clasp wire tightly

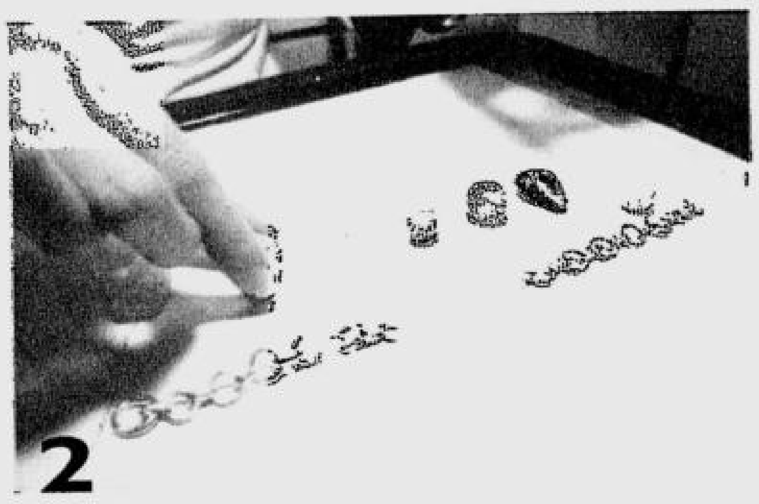


CUT wire with the chain nose pliers. Repeat steps 3 and 4 with the remaining wire and beads.

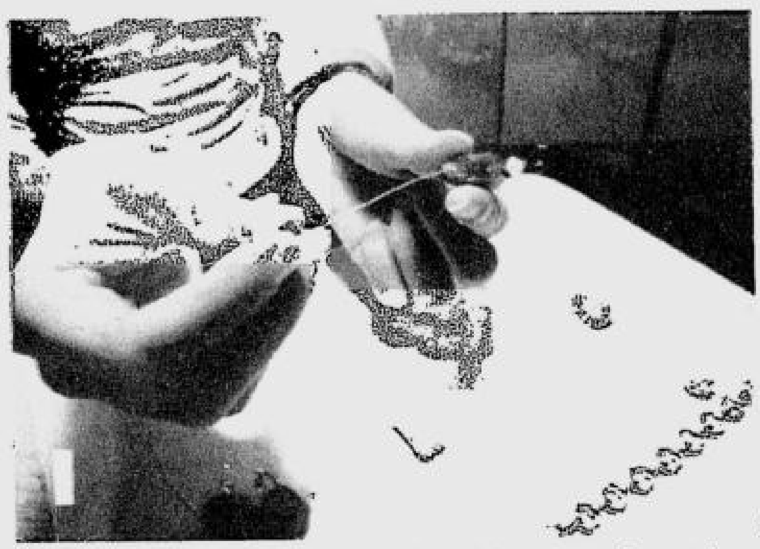
Enhance your charm

Semi-precious stones and crystals are a charming combination, indeed

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena



POSITION stringed beads according to preferred spacing. Note: It's important to lay out the stones you want to put side by side just to see which colors complement each other. Choose irregular shaped beads in one bracelet for a more natural look.



TIGHTLY curl the end of the wire and carefully string each crystal bead and stone through it. Repeat the same procedure with the rest of the materials.

FUN and colorful charm bracelets

CRAFTS

CHARM bracelets charm the eye. The fun shapes and colors made from semi-precious stones, crystals and chunky beads can catch everyone's fancy.

These days, young girls are crazy over charm bracelets and they try to make their own costume jewelry.

"There are a thousand-and-one looks and fashion ideas you can do with charm bracelets," says Valerie Lopez of The Bead Shop (tel. 636-5549). "Your old, personal items .like old rings, charms from a broken bracelet or beads from an old necklace that had gone out of style are still useful. Fashion jewelry is something you can make without having to spend so much. All you need is a little creativity and imagination."

Charms can also make use of ethnic and vintage beads. But the more trendy these days are semi-precious stones mixed with crystals.

"Charm bracelets have always been around, but the comeback is now with stones and lots of beads," says Lopez.

Since most girls are interested in doing their own jewelry, materials are widely available. You can buy beads from Sako Beads, Beads and Pieces, The Bead Shop, Stitches 'N Things and from old reliable Divisoria, where you can purchase all kinds of beads from plastic to glass to clay and ceramic.

However, most stores in Divisoria usually sell plastic and glass beads with very limited designs and shapes.

Do-it-yourself jewelry

To start the project, you need a basic chain where you can hook all your charms. These days, silver chain is more popular than gold. But you can make use of any chain depending on your budget.

If your budget is around P150-P300, you can buy a silver chain from Greenhills' *tiangge.* According to Lopez, those are not actually sterling silver, but rhodium, which is a Korean metal. Rhodium does not tarnish, but some people may be allergic to it.

If you have a bigger budget, go for the 92.5 sterling silver, which you can buy at reasonable prices from P500 to as high as P1,300.

The expensive types are those chunky, thicker chains. Sterling silver you can find in shops like UniSilver, Silver Works, Jammin' Gems, Axxezz and The Bead Shop, which has 18 branches nationwide.

If you want a cheaper chain, you will have to look for the metal-plated or nickel-finished ones.

"Some people like to wear big and chunky charm bracelets so you would have to go for a thicker chain," says Lopez. "It's the trend today, bigger items for necklaces, earrings and bracelets for more emphasis."

Since orange is the color of the year, popular gems are agate, carnelian and other complementary colors to orange.

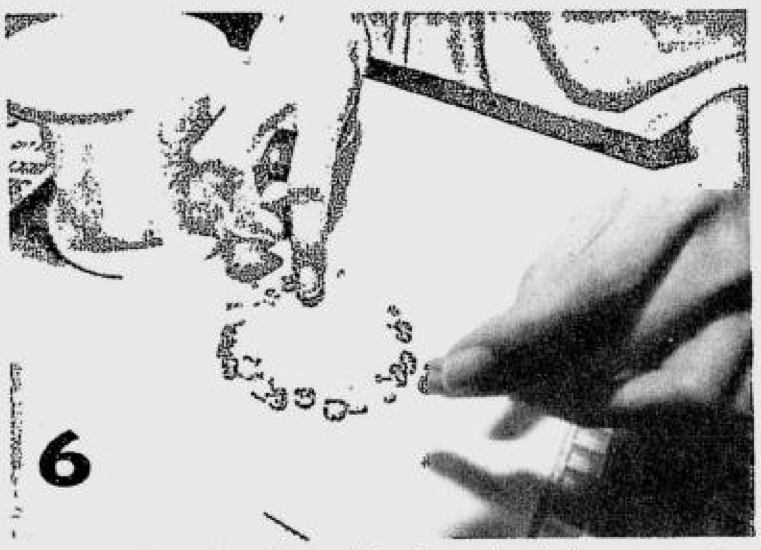
Some semi-precious stones are already stabilized, which means they're chemically enhanced to get the desired color of the stone. They're not mined. They're cheaper than the real thing.

Natural turquoise may cost P80-P150; stabilized turquoise, P15-P25. Stabilized stones are ideal for fashion jewelry.

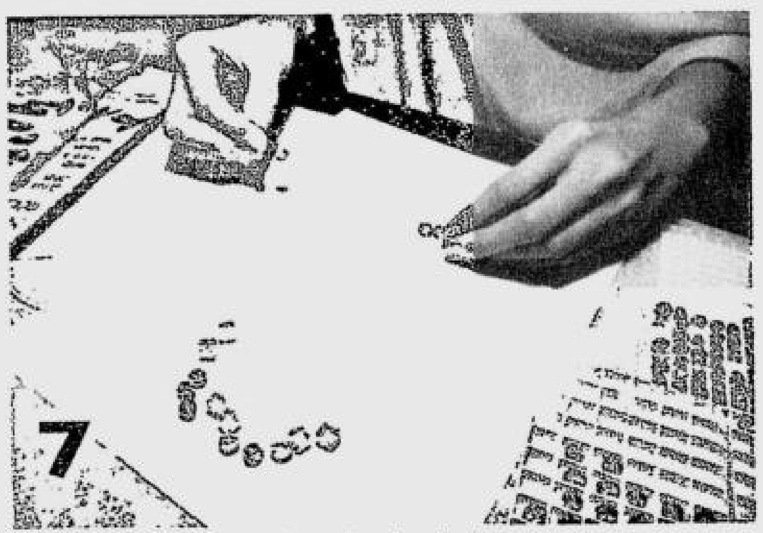
For this project, you will also need a mix of semi-precious stones like natural amethyst, quartz and turquoise.

Other materials like long nose or flat-nose scissors and metal wire, head pin and eye pin are available at most craft stores and bead shops.

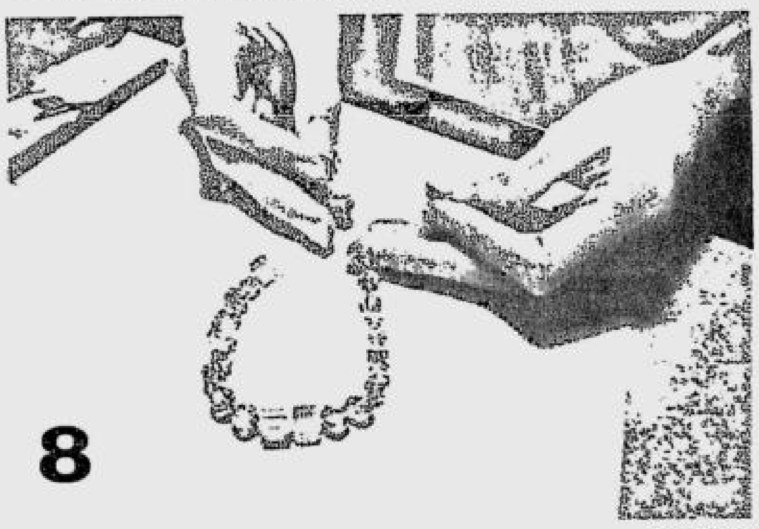
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



FOR beaded bracelet without chains, lay out beads that you want to put side by side.



STRING the beads together using the elastic string



TIGHTLY tie both ends of the string

Getting out is so very hard to do

From page F1

I decided to expand my world. I enrolled for an MA at the Ateneo. My excuse was the children were already in school and I had all these free time. It was I thought, the best way to get back into the mainstream job market. Sure enough after one semester, I found me a good, well-enough paying job. Within two years I was earning enough to set out on my own.

Except that my friends were going through marital problems that made my own "sorrows" seem trivial. I felt guilty for wanting to give up a marriage which by their standard was so stable and unproblematic. My husband loved me in his fashion. Not exactly in the manner I wanted to be loved but, perhaps, maybe I was making unreasonable demands of an admittedly flawed institution. I was lucky, my friends told me. They would gladly trade my husband for theirs. I decided to keep mine.

And instead take a lover. I read the book, "Open Marriage," even discussed it with my husband who naturally dismissed it as one of the theories I like to toy with. I set out on the hunt, carefully casing men who just might be my life's "grand passion." And I discovered that a woman only has to insinuate that she is available for the propositions to present themselves at every turn. Simply insisting to be addressed as Ms instead of Mrs. and refusing to blush at sexual repartee, or calling yourself "liberated" got the men entranced and/or drooling. I was sorely disappointed, though. For I was not about to settle for someone less interesting, less cultured and less caring, never mind less good-looking than my husband. Those who were acceptable came few and far between. And were usually foreigners. Unfortunately, even *mestizos* are not my type.

I sublimated. I was going to accept my marriage for what it is and instead of dwelling on my own sorrows, I would go out there and fashion a world that was good for all women. I tried being a feminist-activist. Except that, to assume leadership qualities in the women's movement, one had to have been abandoned, separated or at the very least unhappily married. Or a survivor of physical and psychological battering. On all counts, I was glaringly unqualified. I did argue that perhaps being happily married made me a credible, disinterested spokesperson for divorce. It didn't wash. The verdict was, I was most probably faking my feminism. I was reduced to pleading guilty. I did, after all, love at least one man I wasn't related to by blood.

Then by chance (a very positive phenomenon) I wrote a book and found I was fairly good at the craft of writing. I went at it with the passion Leo spoke of. And my husband, who was also by chance, part of the endeavor, was very supportive. I was happy. I took off and wrote four more books. He let me be. He left me alone. We stayed together but he was no longer there. He came home every night so there was no evidence of abandonment. Except my loneliness. And the unhappiness that disabled my writing.

In my heart of hearts, I still want to leave him. But my friend, Glenda, told me to wait. The age 50s are difficult years. Wait until you are in your 60s, the relationship will get better, she assured me. So I have been waiting.

In the meantime, my husband went about his way making his fortune. I, on the other hand, had grown older (no longer eligible for the job market), less attractive and more vulnerable. I can no longer give up the lifestyle to which my husband has accustomed me. I have run out of b-lls--t money.

I can only hope, one of these days I will buy that winning Lotto ticket. Or find some real courage.

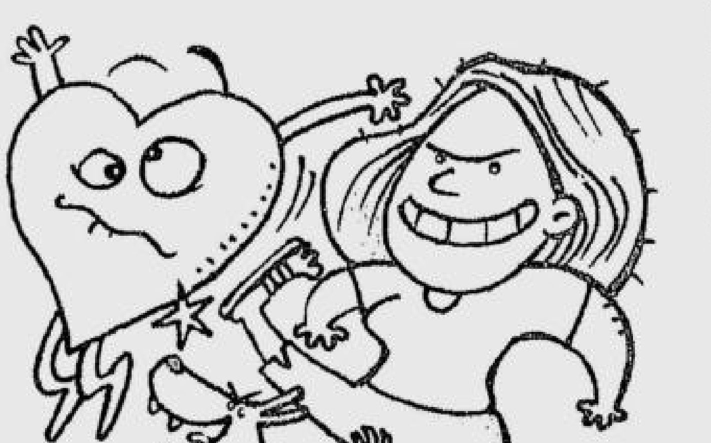


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRA

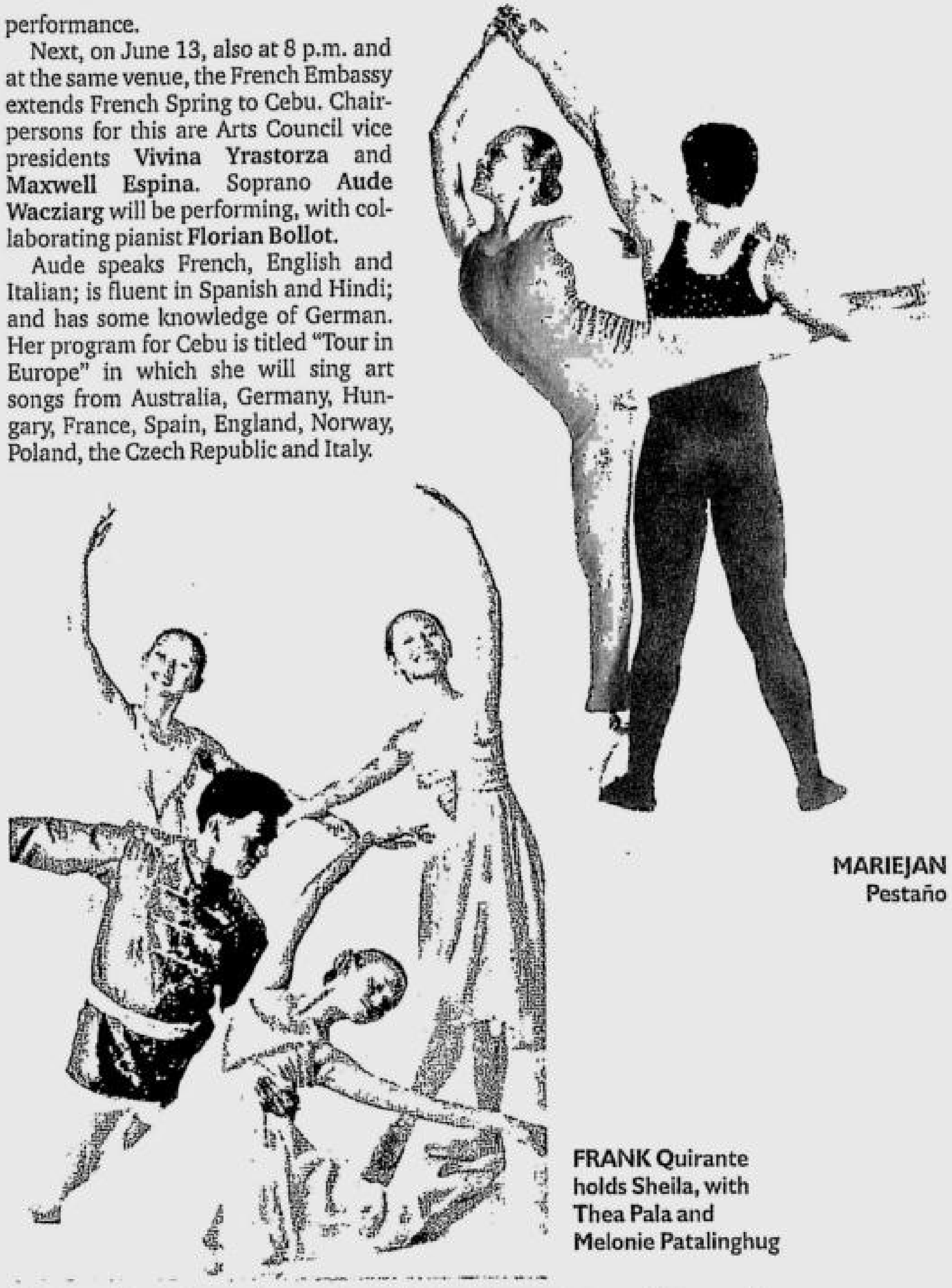
Vivaldi, ballet and French Spring

From page F4

performance.

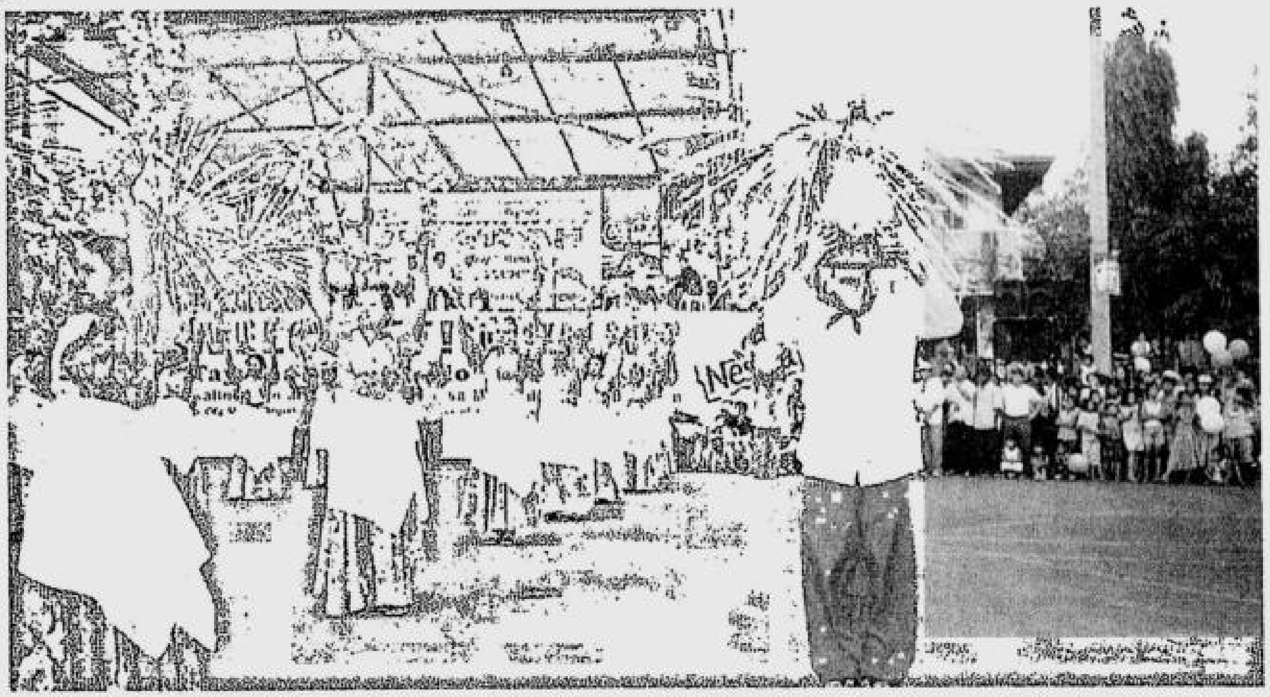
Next, on June 13, also at 8 p.m. and at the same venue, the French Embassy extends French Spring to Cebu. Chairpersons for this are Arts Council vice presidents **Vivina Yrastorza** and **Maxwell Espina**. Soprano **Aude Wacziarg** will be performing, with collaborating pianist **Florian Bollot**.

Aude speaks French, English and Italian; is fluent in Spanish and Hindi; and has some knowledge of German. Her program for Cebu is titled "Tour in Europe" in which she will sing art songs from Australia, Germany, Hungary, France, Spain, England, Norway, Poland, the Czech Republic and Italy.



MARIEJAN Pestaño

FRANK Quirante holds Sheila, with Thea Pala and Melonie Patalinghug



Thousands join traditional trek to pay homage to Antipolo patroness

THOUSANDS of devotees accompanied the Nuestra Señora dela Paz y Buenviaje back to Antipolo during the traditional Alay-lakad from Quiapo Church to the Antipolo Cathedral from the evening of April 30 to the early morning of May 1.

Streets leading to Antipolo were filled with devotees, some carrying images of the Virgin and the Black Nazarene. After the dawn mass and church rituals in the Antipolo Cathedral, the Sumakah Festival began, starting with the *suman* and *kasuy* contests.

Variations of the traditional *suman* recipe were presented and the fastest *suman* wrapper won very substantial prizes. An assortment of *kasuy* recipes were also presented. More adventurous visitors sampled other mouth watering concoctions.

At a little past two in the afternoon, City Mayor Angelito C. Gatlabayan and his wife Josefina, Vice-Mayor Zapanta, members of the city's Sanggunian, city administrator Gilbert Lauenco, and the 16 barangay captains and their contingents ushered in the colorful Sumakah Parade.

Ten groups of Sumakah dancers braved the heat of the scorching summer sun. Leading the parade was the *carosa* of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, the exact replica of the one enshrined in the main altar of the Antipolo Cathedral.

In his speech, Mayor Gatlabayan stressed the need to maintain the cleanliness of the city. If Antipolo was to earn the title "Pilgrimage City", it must live up to that image.

The Antipolo National High School topped the dance competition receiving the P100,000 cash prize. The ABC group from barangays won P75,000 for second prize and the group led by Mar Bacani of the Antipolo Chamber of Commerce was third place of P50,000.

The novena officially started May 6 and a mass was offered to ask that the country be spared from the SARS epidemic at the Pinagmisahan near Hinulugang Taktak where the first mass in Tagalog was held to pray for an end to a plague that killed residents of Antipolo, Taytay and Cainta.

The winning Antipolo City dancers represented the Southern Tagalog Region in the recent Aliwan Festival.

Meanwhile, the month-long Antipolo festivities also included a Hamaka race on May 6th. The Agri-Industrial Trade and Tourism Fair will be held May 26 to June 7.

The annual devotion to Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage ends on the second Tuesday of July.

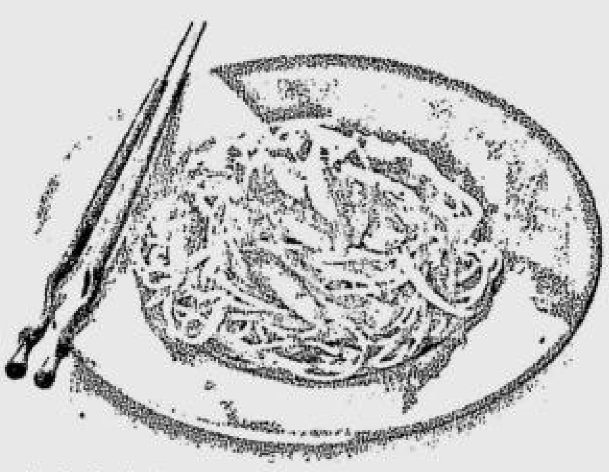
Del Monte Spaghetti stays firm even when overcooked.

Oriental Garlic Pasta

250g DEL MONTE Spaghetti, cooked per package directions
1/4 cup butter or margarine
6 cloves garlic, minced
3/4 cup button mushrooms, quartered
1/2 cube beef bouillon
3 Tbsp. oyster sauce
100g young corn, each diagonally cut into 2
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into strips
2 Tbsp. flour, dissolved in 1/4 cup water
2 Tbsp. chopped parsley
2 stalks green onions, chopped

1. Saute garlic and mushrooms in butter or margarine for 2 minutes. Add bouillon, oyster sauce, young corn, bell pepper and 1/4 tsp. Iodized fine salt (or 1/4 Tbsp. Iodized rock salt). Saute for 1 1/2 minutes. Add 3/4 cup water and simmer for 3 minutes.

2. Add dissolved flour and stir until sauce thickens. Add parsley and green onions. Pour over or blend with cooked DEL MONTE Spaghetti. Makes 6 servings.



Del Monte
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Pasta Italiana

You can't go wrong.

Vivaldi, ballet and French Spring

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE CHAMBER Players of the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) performed its second concert for the season at the ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel. Conducting the program was Prof. **Jeffrey Solares**, the orchestra's mentor who is well-known for his punctilious rehearsals. Audience members agreed afterwards that this was one of the best PPP concerts ever.

The concert, "Viva Vivaldi," was meant to honor the great 18th-century Italian master of Baroque music **Antonio Vivaldi**. Three of his main works were in the program, starting off with the "Concerto Grosso in A minor." Soloists for this piece were the PPP concertino **Ebb Galindo** (Violin 1) and **Sara Maria Gonzalez** (Violin 2).

Vivaldi's best known work, the "Four Seasons," was next on the program. The suite consists of four concerti of different movements meant to depict spring, summer, autumn and winter. Vivaldi also wrote four poems to explain the music, and these were printed in the program notes.

Cebuanos have their fill of "The Four Seasons" and a delightful evening at the ballet

When the *pizzicatto* in the Winter part was played, some in the audience were reminded of **Herbert von Karajan**'s version with the Vienna Philharmonic. Solares explained that Berlin-based soloist **Justin Texon** had brought with him the score of "Four Seasons" for the concert, thus the arrangement.

Texon, who is highly rated in Berlin, used his stay in Cebu to conduct master classes with the PPP Chamber Players.

The finale of the concert featured "Gloria in D," which also saw two local choral groups—the Huni Vocal Ensemble and the Voice of Cebu Chorale—performing. The solo parts were sung by sopranos **May Arcenal Tuburan** and **Janina Javelosa**. There was so much applause in the end that part of the "Gloria" was reprised as an encore.

Seated on the front row, absorbed by the music and beaming with maternal pride, was **Ingrid Sala Santamaria**, the PPP's driving force. She was accompanied by the equally-impressed **Desmond Hatton**, general manager of the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.

Also seen in the audience was former Cebu City Mayor **Ronald Duterte**, now the president of the University of Southern Philippines. The university is building a theater for the arts in its vast Lahug campus, and PPP has been offered a home there.

PROF. Jeffrey Solares, Ingrid Sala Santamaria and violinist Justin Texon

Santamaria left for Manila right after the concert, to resume her networking activities for the newly-formed PPP Foundation (with great support from Chief Justice **Hilario Davide** and his wife **Virginia**, who also hail from Cebu). It was Santamaria who nurtured close to 100 students to form the original Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra more than 10 years ago, which has now metamorphosed into the PPP. The orchestra has conducted intense summer classes for both young and mature enrollees in every imaginable instrument. Participants have come from all over the Visayas, and a good number from Luzon.

Summer dance

Fe Sala Villarica's Queen City Chamber Ballet and **Lygia Ibañez**'s St. Benedict Education Center were responsible for a delightful evening of ballet when they presented "Dance on a Summer Night" at the theater for the Performing Arts in Ayala Center.

The program started with "Grand Pas de Quatre," a ballet dating back to 1846 with music by **Cesare Pugni** and choreography by **Anton Dolin**. Dancing were **Mariejan Pestaño, Thea Pala, Kristina Cosep** and **Melonie Patalinghug**.

Next came the famous balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet," with music by **Sergei Prokofief** and choreography by **Nicholas Pacaña**, an alumnus of the company who is now successfully based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sheila Lendio and **Richard Nicart** danced the gala roles, while **Melanie** and **Jefferson Sabanal** essayed the matinée parts the next day.

"Martitenka," also with music by **Cesare Pugni** and cheoreography by **Saint-Leon**, was danced by Thea, **Frankfel Quirante, Marianne Trinidad, Linda Rivera, Tracy Chan** and **Niña Javelosa**.

Next, **Gregory Aaron**'s choreography for "Eclipse," set to the avant-garde music of **Jean Michel Jarre**, wowed the audience. Mariejan and Jefferson danced the leads, and every dancer already mentioned were in it, plus **Weslev Racoma, Osias Cartagena** and **Amanda Ong Vaño**, the pretty daughter of **Eleuterio** and **Aileen Ong Vaño**.

Finally, everyone in the company appeared in the finale called "Tchaikovsky." The Russian master's music inspired **Nick Pacaña** to devise a masterful display of all balletic elements in a show-stopping piece.

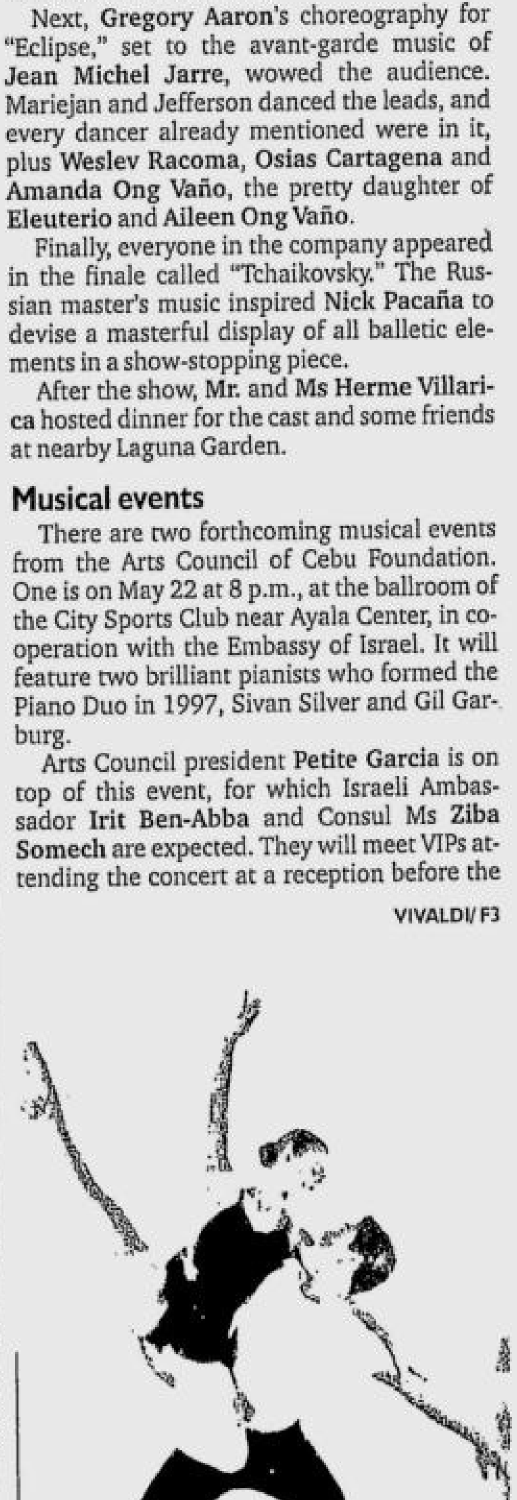
After the show, **Mr. and Ms Herme Villarica** hosted dinner for the cast and some friends at nearby Laguna Garden.

Musical events

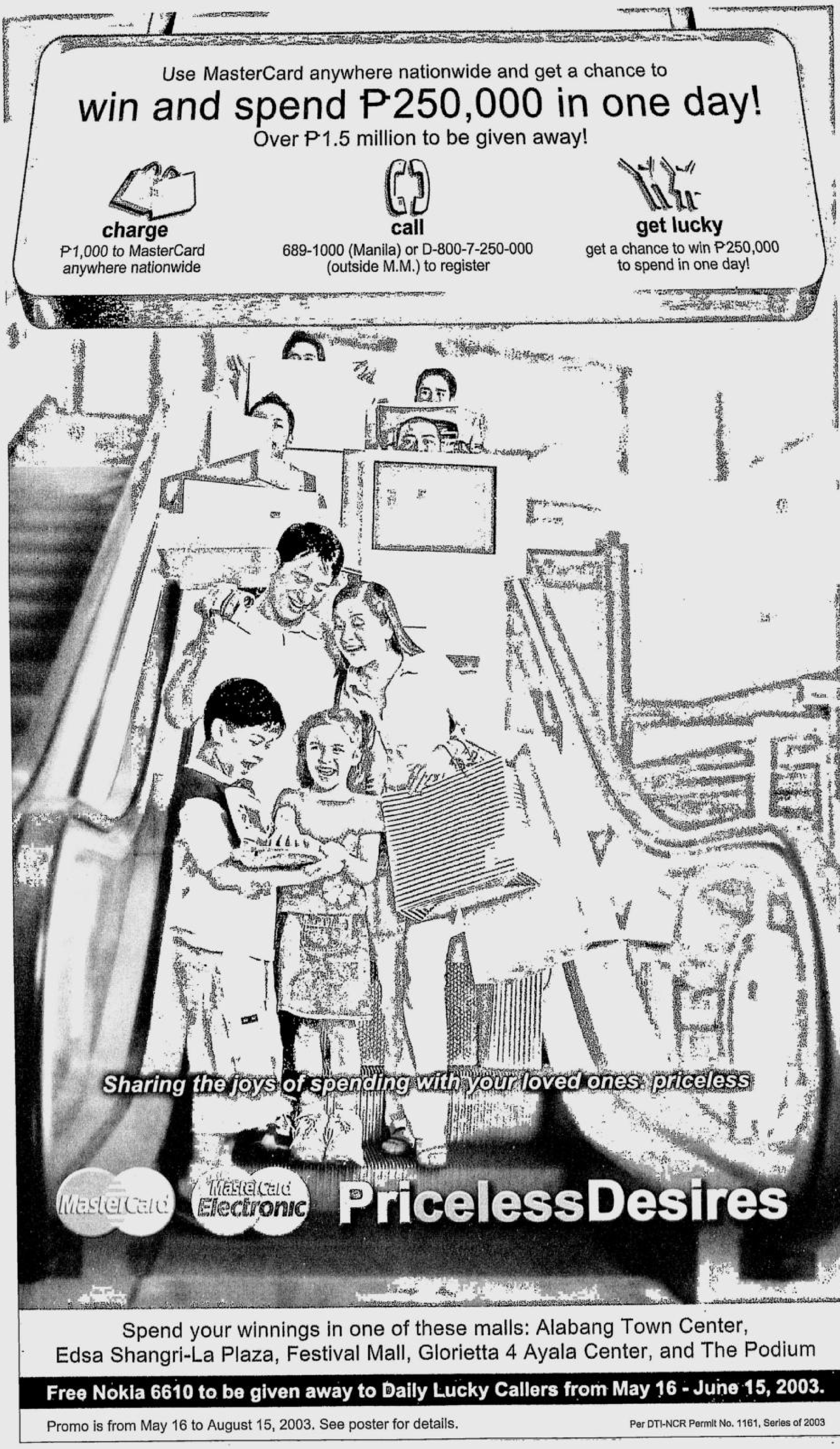
There are two forthcoming musical events from the Arts Council of Cebu Foundation. One is on May 22 at 8 p.m., at the ballroom of the City Sports Club near Ayala Center, in cooperation with the Embassy of Israel. It will feature two brilliant pianists who formed the Piano Duo in 1997, Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg.

Arts Council president **Petite Garcia** is on top of this event, for which Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben-Abba** and Consul Ms **Ziba Somech** are expected. They will meet VIPs attending the concert at a reception before the

VIVALDI/ F3



SHEILA Lendio and Jeff Sabandal



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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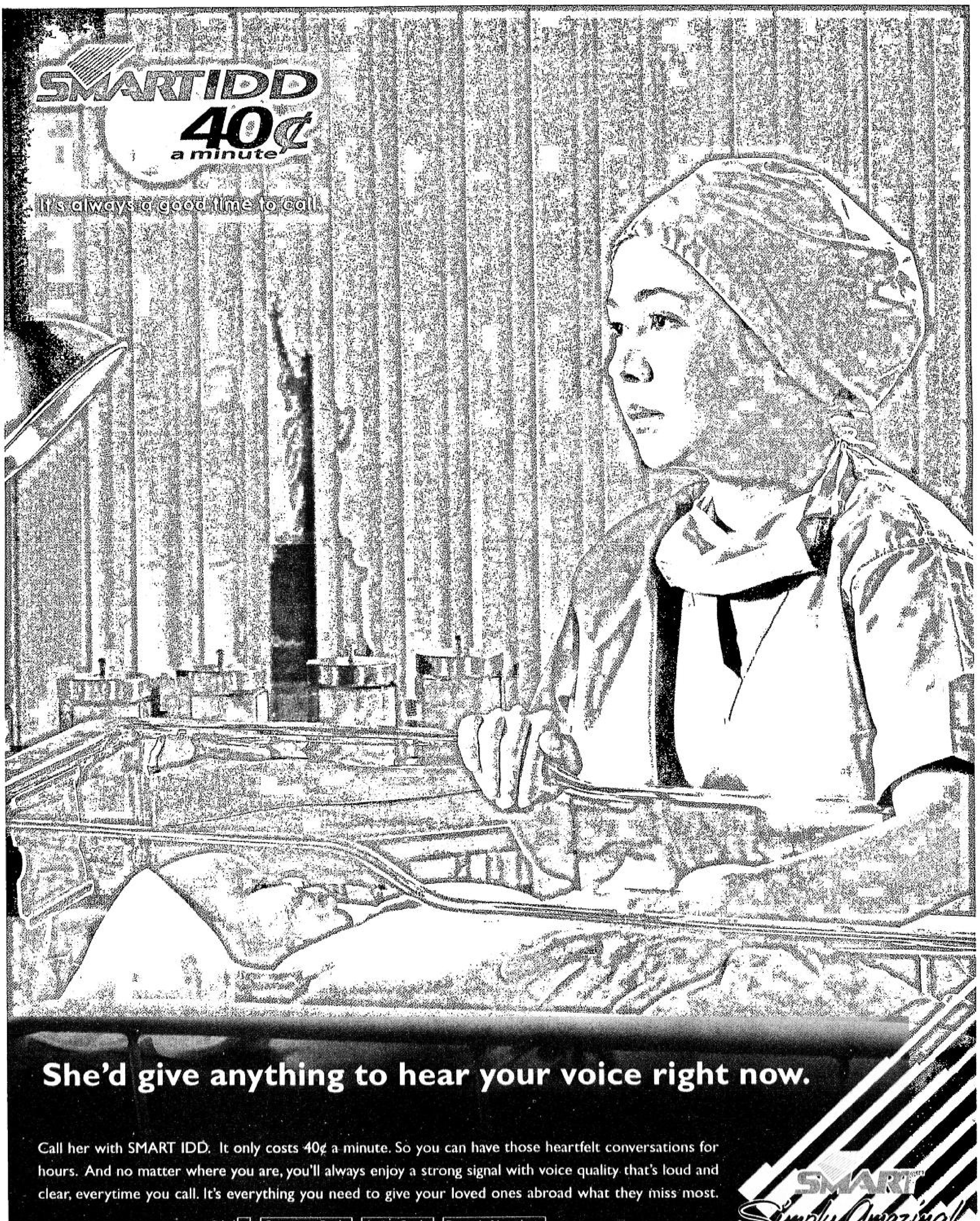
LONGANISA
Ang sarap!!!

DUTCH Ambassador Theo Arnold, Paz Yuchengco, Kessara Arnold and Deputy Chief of Mission Henric Hettinga

Tulip bouquets and young virtuosos

STORY ON PAGE G2

CAROLYN Dimond, Isabel Wilson, and Finland Ambassador and Mme. Raimo Antolla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Tulip bouquets and young virtuosos

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

WORD is out that we'll have a dozen lady ambassadors before year's end. Kinda neat, don't you think? I'm sure that's one for the books.

At the celebration of Queen's Day, the Kingdom of the Netherlands' commemoration of **Queen Beatrix's** birthday, guests were received by Dutch Ambassador **Theo** and Mme. **Kessara Arnold** and Deputy Chief of Mission **Henric Hettinga** at the ballroom of the InterCon. Aside from receiving tulip pins, each of the lady guests were presented with a much-appreciated bouquet of three yellow and orange tulips.

Members of the diplomatic community and business and government officials enjoyed a delicious buffet of cheeses, cold cuts and herring as well as the caloric desserts of pastry chef **Cameron Mackay.**

* * *

How time flies! The FCCP (Friends of Cultural Concerns of the Philippines, once known as Friends of the Cultural Center of the Philippines) is celebrating its 24th anniversary this year. One of its primary objectives has always been the promotion and development of the performing and visual arts.

Annually, the group hosts the Artists and Friends Cocktail Musicale, featuring young and promising artists, to the enjoyment of people who enjoy classical music. This year, Finland's Ambassador and Mme. **Raimo Antola** welcomed guests to their timelessly lovely **Lor Calma**-designed house, which is as contemporary as though it had been constructed only yesterday.

This year's presentation was prepared by the events committee headed by **Chit Gohu** and **Fortune Ledesma**, supported of course by president **Chloe Periquet** and assisted by **Annabelle Adriano, Pilie Aquino, Fanny Blanco, Carrie Bautista, Nene Leonor, Lyn Liboro, Tessie Luz** and the one and only **Boysie Villavicencio.**

Featured were cellist **Antoni Josef Inacay**, a Predis scholar and Namcya winner, who performed the first movement of **Luigi Boccherini's** "Concerto in B flat Major" and **Nicanor Abelardo's** "Romanza;" pianist **Lea Capulong**, a first prize Namcya winner, who rendered Chopin's "Etude in E. Major Op. # 3" and "Debussy's Prelude #1;" and tenor **Nelson Caruncho**, a University of Illinois and Salzburg School of Music scholar, who sang Francesco Tosti's *L'Ultima Cansone*.

NARDA Camacho and French Ambassador Renee Veyret

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique Hubbard and Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva

OLGA Martel and Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam Narvaez

CAMBODIAN Ambassador and Mme. EK Sereywath

SPANISH Ambassador Ignacio Saqaz

BRAZIL Charge d'Affaires Carlos Cavalho

LIBYAN Ambassador Salem Adam

UAE Ambassador Mohammed Ebrahim Al-Jowaid

EGYPTIAN Ambassador and Mme. Saber Abder Mansour

PERU Ambassador Jorge Chavez and Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma

MON. ANTONIO Franco, Papal Nuncio, and Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Santana-Ramirez

ISRAELI Ambassador Irit Ben-Abba

CUBAN Ambassador Ramon Alonso Medina

JOSIE and Ramon Sy

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto and Clara Colesanti

ANICETO Sobrepeña and German Ambassador Herbert Jess

QATAR Ambassador Saleh Ibrahim Al-Kuwari and Papua New Guinea Ambassador Graham John Ainui

RUSSIAN Ambassador and Mme. Anatoli Nebogatov

BRUNEI Ambassador Maimunah Elias, Vangie Pascual and Frank Evaristo

FORMER Ambassador Jesus Tambunting

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao da Silva

HOWARD Belton

NENE Casimiro

PEPING Periquet, Beth Day Romulo and Piiu Antolla

Making healing fun for sick kids

AN AWARD-WINNING program of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) Department of Pediatric Nephrology has provided children suffering from chronic kidney disease unstructured education to make hospital visits fun.

The Batong Bulilit School, which received the Pagasa Award given by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to outstanding government agencies, allows children to bone up on the three R's—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic—to help ease the burden of their affliction.

NKTI's garden of shady trees and flowering bushes has miniature *nipa* huts, monkey bars, slides and swings. Girls play with dolls and boys fiddle with toy race cars. There are also giant illustrated fairy-tale collections.

The Batong Bulilit School (*bato* for kidney stone, and *bulilit* for children) was opened in 1996, with the late journalist Art Borjal and the Maria Corazon Torres Javier Foundation, a coordinating body for individuals willing to donate body organs, as principal sponsors.

The CSC cited NKTI for providing alternative activities to pediatric patients, procuring low-cost medicine for them, subsidizing indigent patients' diagnostics, acquiring reasonably priced dialysis material, and aiding transplant patients with pre- and post-transplant problems.

In January, Batong Bulilit linked up with Kythe Foundation. A pioneer in child-life program in the Philippines, Kythe (Scottish for "healing") was allowed by the Department of Health to share its expertise with government-affiliated hospitals.

Kythe's child-life coordinators educate the child and the family about the illness (pediatric-illness education), analyze the child's concept of death (coping and distraction techniques), and help prepare them for medical procedures.

The Batong Bulilit program focuses on the patients' psychosocial development with art therapeutic activities, outdoor activities, bibliotherapy, animal-assisted therapy and medical play. It also provides parent/sibling support and a bereavement program called "Bagong Anyo, Bagong Buhay."

Last month, Manulife Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Financial Canada, donated to the Batong Bulilit Child Life Program's medical assistance to select patients and to register the program with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a foundation.

"We are glad to help Batong Bulilit, which is so worthy of our company's corporate-giving program," said Manulife vice president for marketing Jom Ignacio.

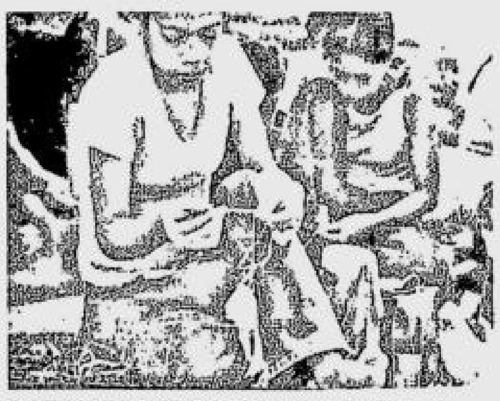
Last December, Manulife and Migi's Corner Foundation, one of the company's partners in its corporate-giving, donated a playground set for pediatric patients.

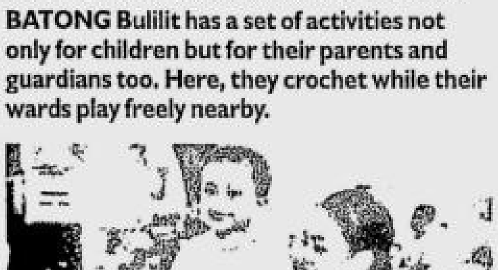
Batong Bulilit plans to implement more activities such as educational field trips, cultural excursions, and "Celebrate Life," where child life coordinators and other program donors, including Manulife, will spend quality time with pediatric patients on birthdays and other special occasions.

CHILDREN display their hand-made toys.

PEDIATRIC patients browse an illustrated fairy tale collection.

BATONG Bulilit children paint flower pots at their art therapy session.


BATONG Bulilit has a set of activities not only for children but for their parents and guardians too. Here, they crochet while their wards play freely nearby.


THREE-YEAR-OLD minimal change nephrotic syndrome patient Jeezuel Alzate waits for his mother Marichu to blow the colorful bubbles to his and his playmate's delight.

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NEO QNOTE	P60,999.00	P54,999.00	P6,000.00	1,100.00	2,200.00	4,500.00	5,000.00	7,100.00	8,200.00	10,500.00	11,000.00
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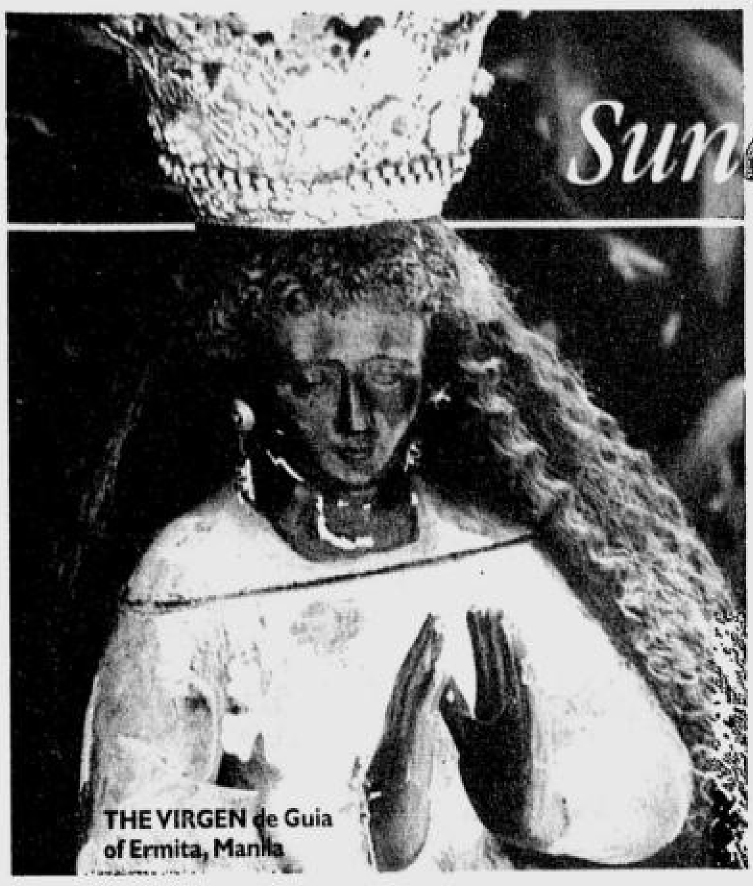
Sunday LIFESTYLE

The oldest Marian image in RP is our guiding star



THE VIRGEN de Guia of Ermita, Manila

THE PHILIPPINES began its "history" in 1521, when Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan "discovered" the islands. Prior to the arrival of the Conquistadores, the Philippines had enjoyed trade relations with neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, and as far as China and Japan. Manila was added to the trade routes in the West as an adjunct to Mexico, which was Spain's farthest territory in the New World. Manila never did have direct relations with Spain, but relations were maintained through Mexico. But that's another story.

The image of the Virgen de Guia is reputedly the oldest Marian image in the Philippines. It is venerated in the Parish Church of Ermita located at M.H. del Pilar and A. Flores Streets. It faces the entrance of US Embassy.

To an antique aficionado, the image of the virgin is one object to "die for." It is reputed to have been here in the Philippines even before the Spaniards came and Christianized the islands. Many stories of its "discovery" were written time and again.

The image is said to have been "discovered" on May 19, 1571, by one of Legazpi's men, as the latter was idly passing time. Noticing a pagan ritual being performed by the natives, he curiously watched and was surprised that the object of the ritual was a small brown statue atop a *pandan* bush.

Upon closer inspection, it seemed a representation of the Virgin Mary. He reportedly took it to the local priest, and in the hope of making it a tool to Christianize the natives, housed the statue in the local church.

The little brown statue is now housed at the church of Ermita, dressed in a resplendent robe befitting the Queen of Heaven.

Asian features

The image is not what many popularly believe as an "*imajen de maniquin*," meaning an image that is normally dressed in rich garments, but "*imajen detallado*," meaning that the image is sculpted with garments and richly painted and adorned. The image is made of wood. It shows Asian facial features—slanted eyes, a miniscule nose and demure lips. Its overly large hands are in supplication, as if in prayer. The dress is not in western style but is definitely Oriental, closely resembling the *sarong kebaya* of Malaysia. On closer inspection, faint traces of blue, red, green and gold paint were once applied to the image, colors of Asian royalty.

With the above details, it cannot be conjured that the image came to Philippine shores through the Manila-Acapulco trade routes. Religious images coming from Spain via Mexico at the time showed a distinct western character. It is safe to say that the image must have been made by a Chinese craftsman. How and why it came to the Philippines is anybody's guess.

Its general posture is reminiscent of the images of the Immaculate Conception. In 1954, the Pope declared a Marian Year, in celebration of the Centenary of the Proclamation or the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and the Nuestra Señora de Guia was the very first image of the Immaculate Conception.

From the day of its discovery, the Image of the Virgin began to manifest her charity through miracles brought upon the Filipino people specially navigators. For this reason she was given the title "Guia," meaning "guide," and declared Patroness of Galleons plying the Manila-Acapulco trade routes. Thus, the practice of bringing her image in a procession before a galleon sails and when it arrives at the Port of Manila was a must in the maritime community of Spanish Manila.

Queen of the seas

It must also be noted that the Virgin's image holds an admiral's baton, signifying her Queenship over the seas, true to her appellation as "Stella Maris," or "Star of the Ocean," that safely guides navigators to port. A Royal Decree of Aug. 9, 1758, the King of Spain declared her as the "Sworn Patroness" of the city by the reason of continual favor she lavished on the city and its people.

The image has seen the changing history of the Philippines, from the colonization of Spain, the American and Japanese occupations, and all other conquerors in between. She has been a silent witness to the changing fortunes of the Philippines and the Filipinos, and her help has not wavered nor waned, nor has the Filipinos' unwavering faith in God through Her faltered.

Miraculous interventions

In modern times, she continually made her presence felt. On the visit of His Holiness Pope

THE OLDEST/ H2

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THE VIRGIN holds an admiral's baton, symbolizing her queenship over the seas.

THE VIRGIN is an "imagen detallado" sculpted with garments and richly adorned.

The oldest Marian image in RP is our guiding star

From page H1

Paul VI in the Philippines on Nov. 27, 1970, she presided at the Eucharistic Celebration at Manila Cathedral. After the Mass His Holiness blessed and kissed the hands of this venerable image. On May 16, 1971, the late Rufino Cardinal Santos, then Archbishop of Manila, placed a crown donated by Pope Paul VI. The image was canonically crowned by Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, on Dec. 13, 1955.

Again, she presided over the Papal Van Sacristy on the visit of His Holiness John Paul II to Manila, during the International Youth Congress in 1991.

Up to the present, countless miraculous interventions have been attributed to her continuing guidance. Strange as it may seem, the small church, housing the little brown virgin, which was once was the enclave of Manila's elite, is now taken over by the maritime industry. Showing only one thing: She still is the Queen of the Sea, the guiding star bringing everyone safely home!

The traditional Bota Flores and Procession will start at the Ermita Churchon May 19 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited.

THE LITTLE brown Virgin is every sailor's guiding light.

Europe furniture house offers discounts

THE MEGA Accents Home Furnishings Inc. offers custom-made French and Italian-designed furniture. Its product lines include living, dining and bedroom showcases, as well as chandeliers, lampshades, mirrors, frames, carpets, brass beds and gold inlaid furniture.

The designs are exclusive. In all of their lines, Mega Accents uses elderwood from Rumania.

In addition, Mega Accents has entered into a joint venture with the Elserfy Furniture Manufacturing Inc. of Cairo Egypt, one of the largest manufacturers of hand-made furniture in the Middle East.

Elserfy specializes in Italian-designed hand-carved furniture in gold-leaf, mahogany and walnut.

Some of Mega Accents' best sellers are its Louie IV and Louie V living and dining room sets, solid brass chandeliers, Belgian tapestry and carpet, Italian figurines, and the Mona Lisa living and dining room sets.

Mega Accents allows clients to design their own payment schemes. It also provides design services, delivery (in Metro Manila) and trials for free.

Up to next month, Mega Accents also offers up to 40 percent discounts and giveaways to purchasers of dining, bedroom and living room sets.

Mega Accents showrooms are at Megamall; Chino Roces Avenue across Manila Cinema Square; and at 471 Alabang-Zapote Road, Almanza 1, Las Piñas City (across SM Southmall).

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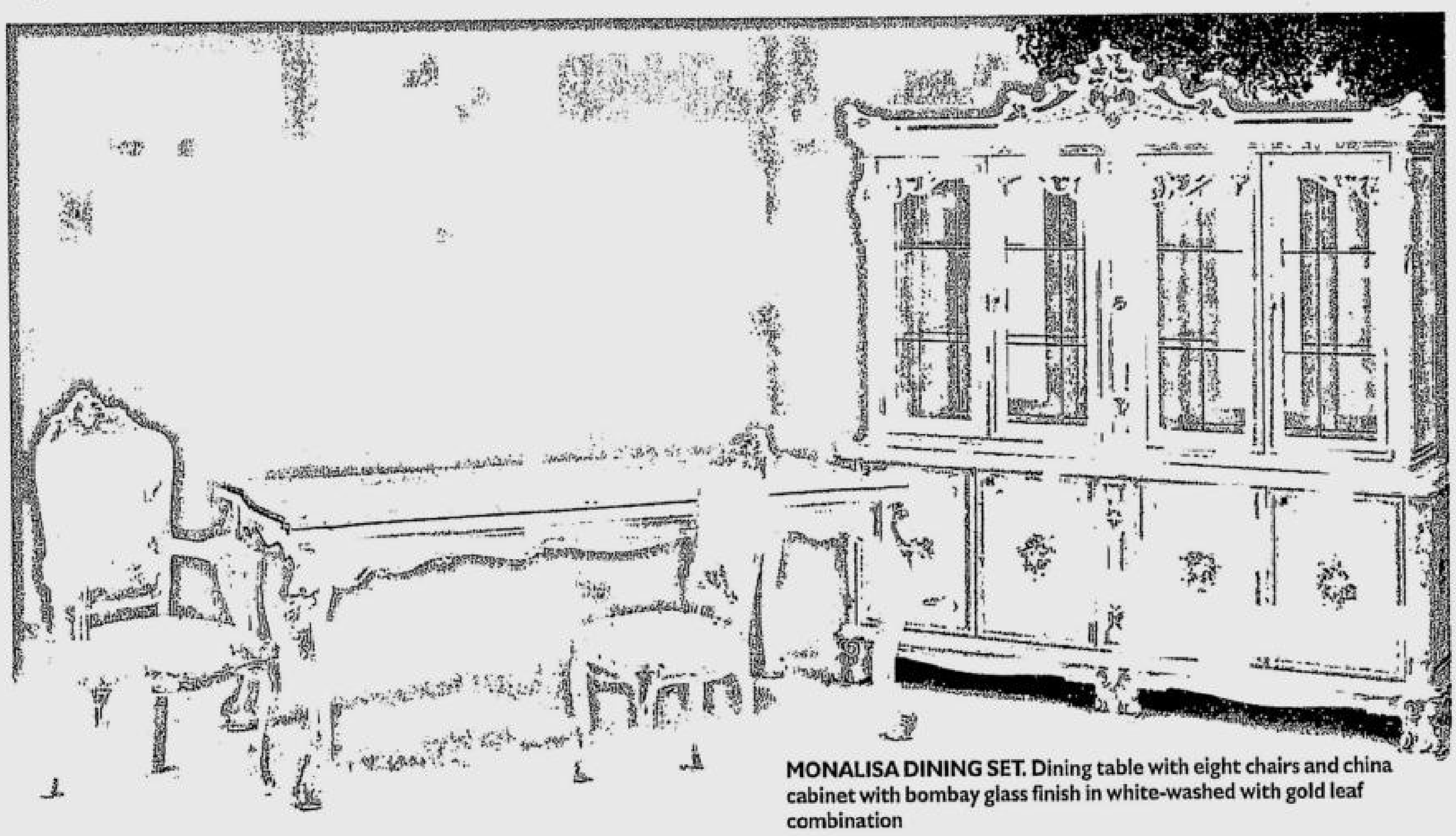

MONALISA DINING SET. Dining table with eight chairs and china cabinet with bombay glass finish in white-washed with gold leaf combination

Albay holds biggest fiesta of the year

ALBAY celebrates Magayon Festival this month. The event showcases Albay's historical attractions, natural wonders, cultural heritage, spicy and coconut-based cuisine and thriving industries.

A brainchild of Albay Gov. Al Francis C. Bichara, the Magayon Festival is a tribute to Albay's mythical maiden, Daragang Magayon. The word *magayon* means "beautiful" in the local dialect.

Over 40 events have been organized by the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office. Gigi Salazar-Manzanilla, senior provincial board member and chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, Culture and the Arts, expects this year's festival to draw more local tourists to the province. "We have been campaigning steadily to promote domestic tourism to Albay through the Magayon Festival," she said. "This year, we saw more hands-on involvement from municipalities, cities and non-government organizations." She notes that support from business groups like Globe Telecom is valuable in making the Magayon Festival a success. "There is a lot of preparation involved and the convenience of having a cell phone makes our job easier. Texting definitely helps us get in touch with each other more efficiently."

A must-see activity is the Sili-Eating Contest on May 30 at Peñaranda Park. The winner of this fiery contest will attempt to equal, if not break the Guinness World Record of eating 300 scorching *sili* in one sitting by reigning *sili* king Roberto Gonzales of Camalig, Albay. Of course, no festival is complete without the search for the prettiest lady of Albay in the Daragang Magayon Coronation Night at Albay Astrodome, happening on the same evening. Other events include the Jobs Fair (May 26-27), Bicol Open Billiards Tournament (May 26-27), Dog Show (May 24) and Regional Open Dama Tournament (May 23-25).

Globe Telecom Business Center (GTBC) is jumping into the fray through a special fiesta-inspired campaign highlighting a key promo offer of a free Nokia 3530 for new G-Mix subscriptions and higher plans. The G-Mix Plan covers 100 minutes of voice calls and 350 free text messages.

In Albay, GTBC is located on the 2/F Pacific Mall, Lanco Business Park, Bitano, Legazpi City.

GLOBE Telecom is giving away a free phone in a promo celebrating Albay's Magayon Festival.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

C	A	P	P	■	H	O	R	A	C	E	■	C	A	T	S	■	■	H	A	S
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Filipino music registry launched

THE ORGANISASYON ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) invites all Filipino musical artists including singers, composers, lyricists, arrangers, musicians, recording companies and talent managers to submit entries to the first Registry of Filipino Musical Artists and Their Works. Deadline of submission of entries is on May 30.

Made possible with the support of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the registry project is an updated listing of living and deceased Filipino performing artists and their original works. Entries will include artists' brief biographies, chronological list of performed or published original works, year of first publication or performance, name of producer or publisher, and other important details such as awards and recognition won by the artist or work.

Covered by the registry are singers and musicians who portray and deliver musical performances onstage, onscreen and in phonographic or digital recording.

Also covered are composers, lyricists, arrangers and conductors who originate creative works that become the primary basis of performance, recording or publication.

Mitch Valdes, OPM president, says the project pays tribute to the genius of Filipino musical artists through work documentation and dissemination. The output is a much-needed information resource for students, teachers, researchers, commercial end-users, cultural institutions and enthusiasts of Philippine music from here and abroad.

The registry will come out in book catalog, CD-ROM and website formats and will be distributed among public libraries nationwide, cultural institutions, commercial users of our music and Philippine embassies abroad.

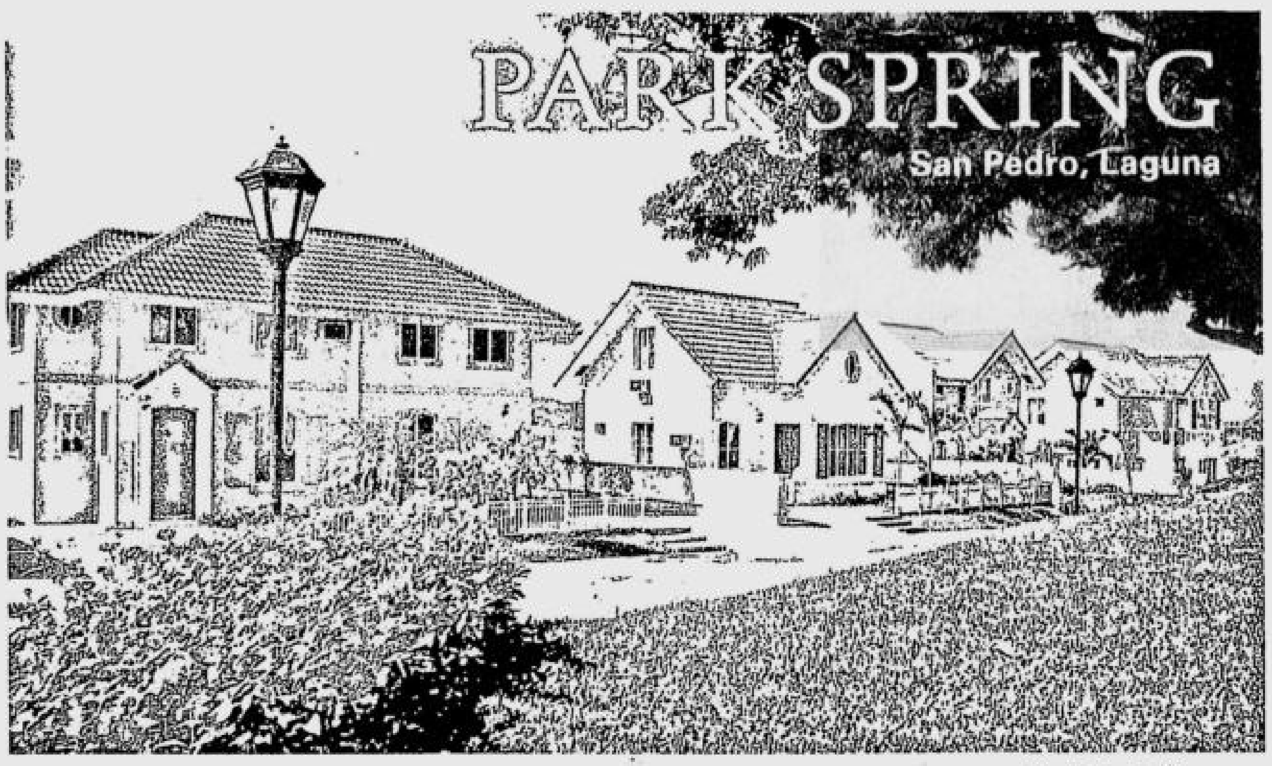
OPM, together with the Performers Right Society of the Philippines, have been in the forefront of protecting artists' rights and welfare and promotion of excellence among Filipino artists. PRSP groups together the Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino (AMP), the Philippine Legitimate Stage Artist Group (Philstage), the Kapisanan ng mga Artista ng Pelikulang Pilipino at Telebisyon (KAPPT) and Katha, an organization of Filipino composers. Collectively, the alliance has waged successful campaigns in the area of intellectual property rights protection, anti music and film piracy, rationalization of amusement tax on musical concerts and theater, cultural promotion and advocacy.

Call Elmar Beltran Ingles, OPM executive director and registry chief editor, at 723-1765 or 823-1845; fax 721-7229; or e-mail opm@l-manila.com.ph.

Shoes and bags fair

STA. Lucia East Department Store's shoes and bags fair is ongoing until May 31. Choose from a variety of styles and save up to 50 percent on shoes, socks and bags for children, men and ladies.

As a back-to-school treat, selected shoes and bag brands will give away freebies like pencils and rulers upon purchase of its product within the promo period.



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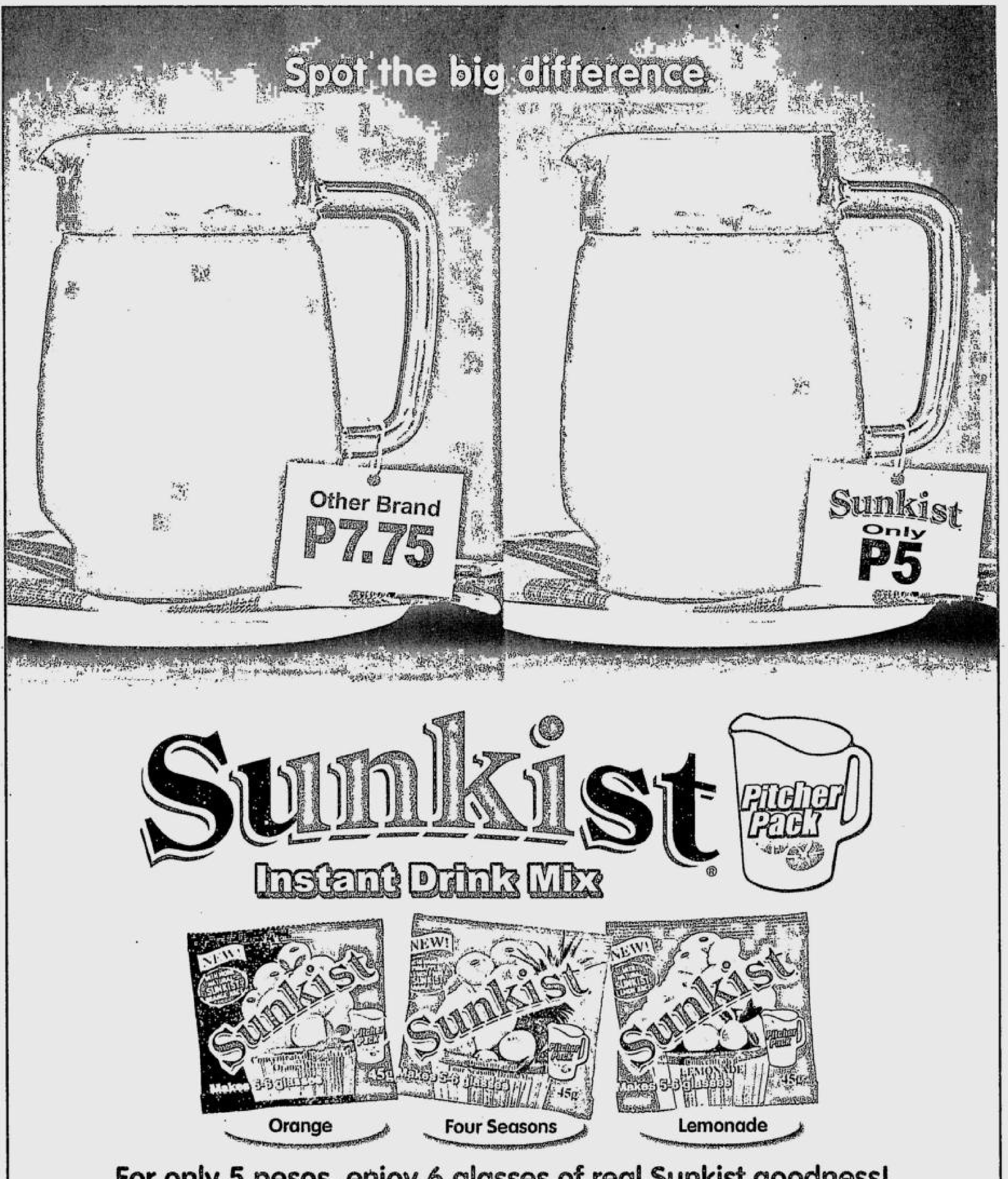

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Session Road Baguio	May 7-18
Boracay	May 10-18

[illegible]	DATES
EDSA Shangri-la	May 1 - 18
Rockwell Powerplant	May 1 - 18
Alabang Town Center	May 1 - 18
Robinsons Malate	May 1 - 18
Podium	May 1 - 18
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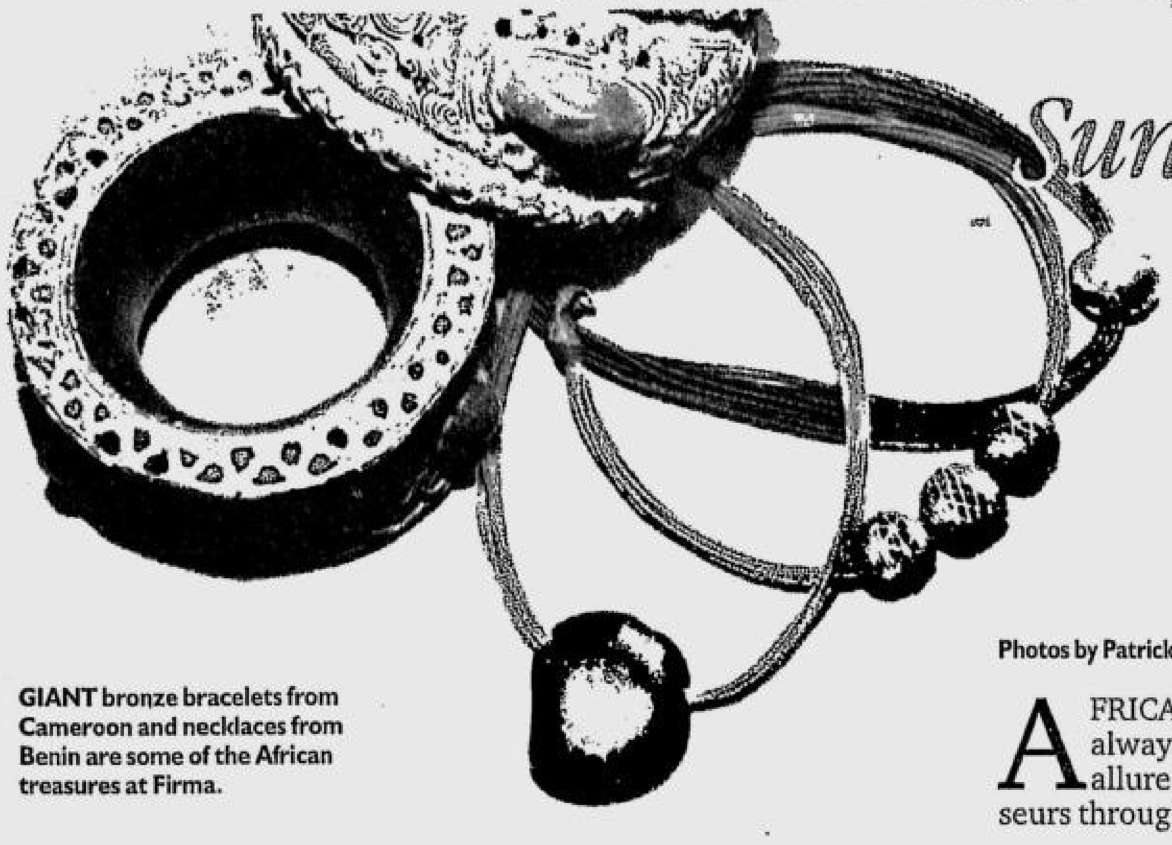
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Magical faces of Africa



GIANT bronze bracelets from Cameroon and necklaces from Benin are some of the African treasures at Firma.

Photos by Patrick Uy

AFRICAN masks have always held a certain allure for art connoisseurs through the years.

Braque and Picasso admired them for their strength and beauty, finding inspiration from them for their paintings. Man Ray used one as counterpoint to a model's visage in one of his celebrated photographs. Every major museum in the world has its own prized collection, and collectors have been fascinated with them for over a century.

Masks are traditionally used in

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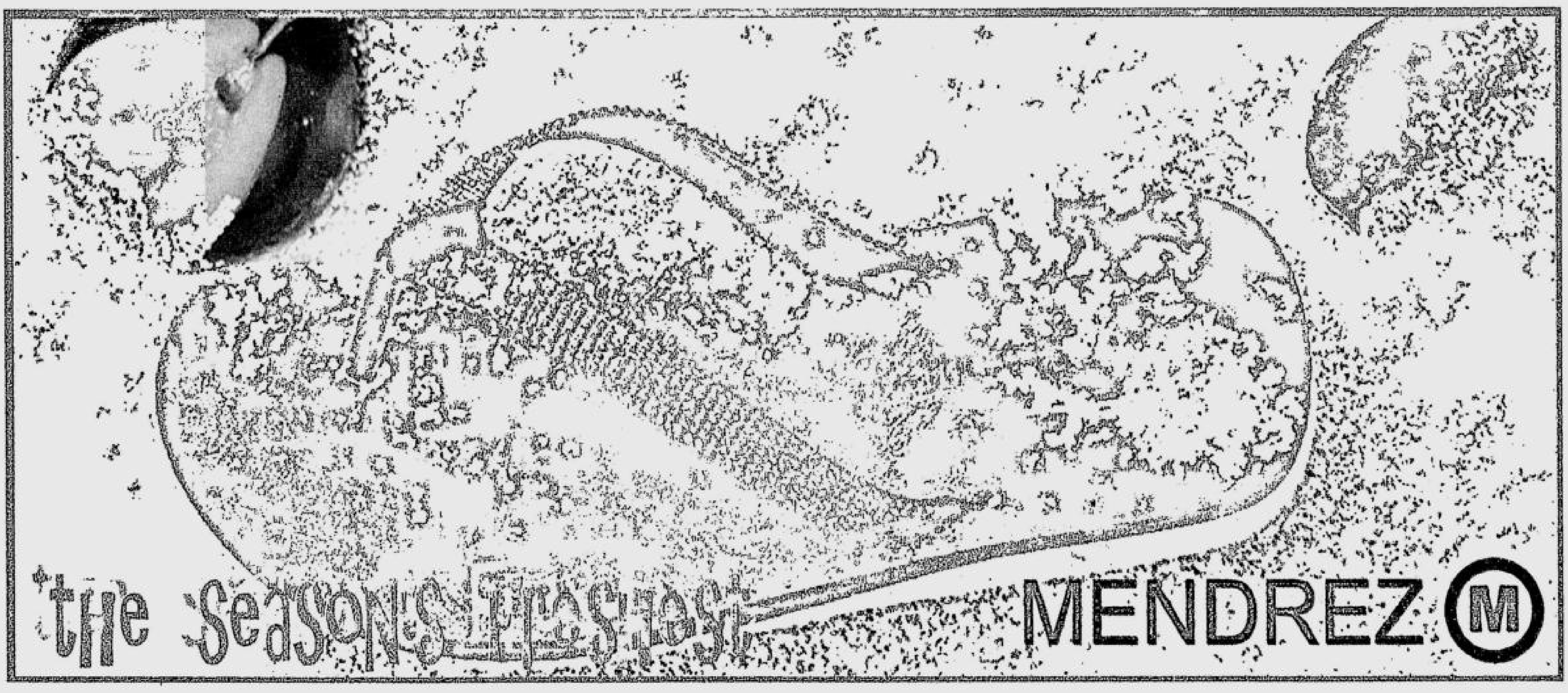


MASKS from the Fang tribe of Gabon

Magical faces of Africa

From page II

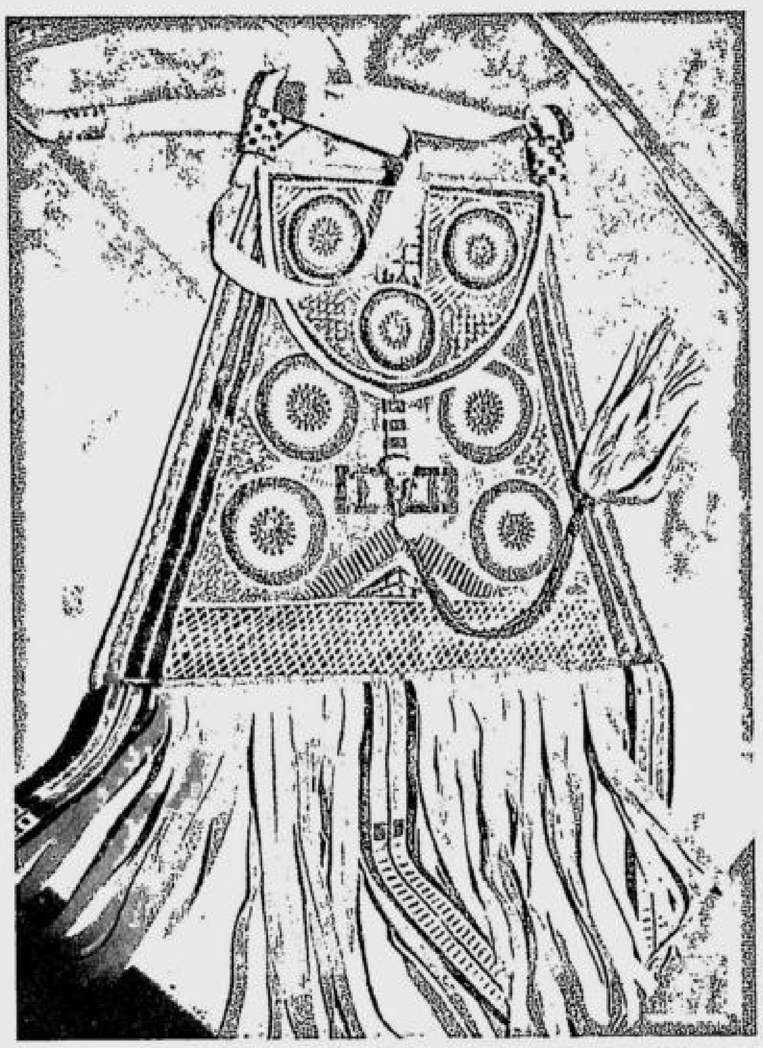
Africa for majority of ceremonies: fertility or initiation rites, religious celebrations and theatrical or comic performances often linked to the deepest ethnic myths.

The mask confers on the person wearing it—for the duration of the ceremony—the essence and powers of spirits or ancestors it symbolizes. Secret societies, almost always composed of adult males, are simultaneously repositories and creators.

Some masks, like the *okuyi* or *mukudj* whiteface masks of the Punu people of Gabon, portray ideals of feminine beauty—elegant coiffure, rounded forehead, highly arched eyebrows, almond-shaped eyes, narrow face and small chin. The mask's white color signifies both beauty and spirituality.

The mystical qualities of these masks make them powerful pieces of sculpture which are at once primitive and modern, blending with today's contemporary interiors.

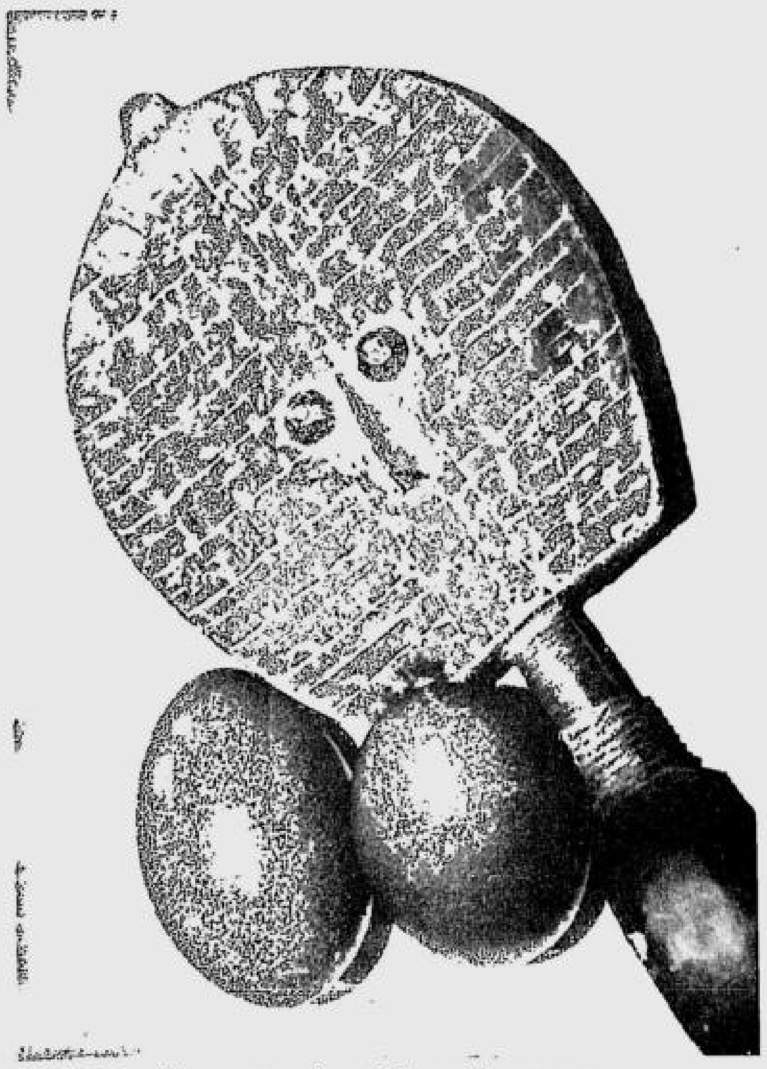
Firma has assembled a collection of some very unusual masks as well as other accent pieces and accessories from various African tribes. Firma is at G/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City; tel. 757-4009.



AN EMBROIDERED patchwork leather bag from Mali, one of the African finds at Firma.

MASK from the Bobo tribe of Mali, used to drive away evil spirits and symbols of wealth and prosperity.

MASK from the Punu people of Gabon, reminiscent of the Japanese Noh mask, is a symbol of feminine beauty and spirituality.



A WOOD and brass statue from Gabon with emu eggs

Glimpse of 'Glass Island' in Manila

OCEANIC 1911 brings to Manila glass art works from Murano, Italy.

Known as the "Glass Island," Murano has fascinated the world for more than 500 years with its exquisite glass works.

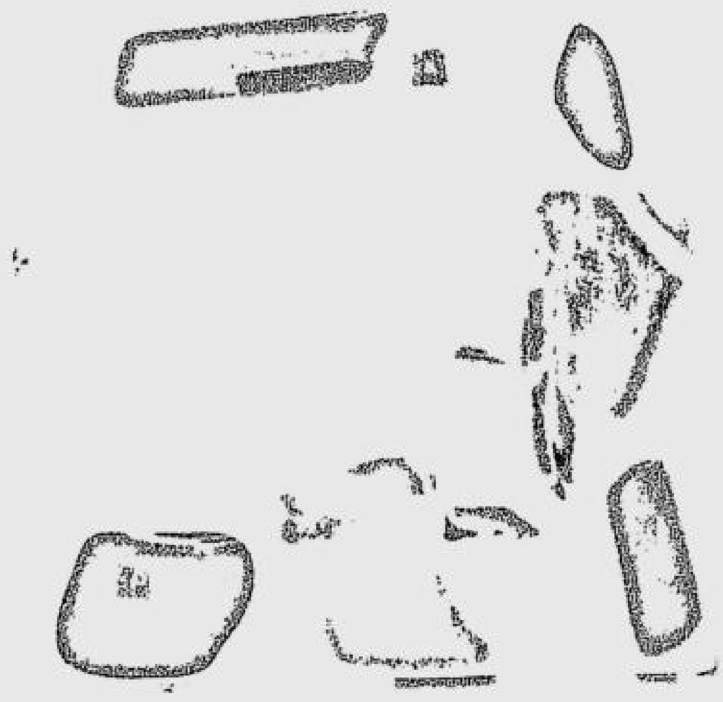
Glassmaking existed in the lagoon of Venice as early as the 8th century. Artisans of Venice accumulated remarkable skills in glass production. The art of glass making was handed down from father to son until it became a trade exclusively for those born on the island of Murano. In 1291, glassmakers were ordered to move their foundries to Murano because the glassworks presented a fire hazard in Venice, whose structures were mostly wooden at that time.

Murano became the leading source of fine glass in Europe and a major source of trading income for Venice. Initially, glass objects were primarily for practical use: drinking glasses, bottles and mirrors. Perfection in the art of glass making was reached in the 1500s. Glass artisans began to expand the variety of creations, colors, and motifs. Beautiful and intricate decorative objects were produced such as chandeliers, mirrors, necklaces, drinking glasses, plates, vases, bottles, ornaments.

Oceanic 1911 carries a very unique line of the custom-made artistic glass treasures with its "exclusively made for Oceanic" Murano pieces. All items display the traditional Murano skill at creating intricate fantasies in glass.

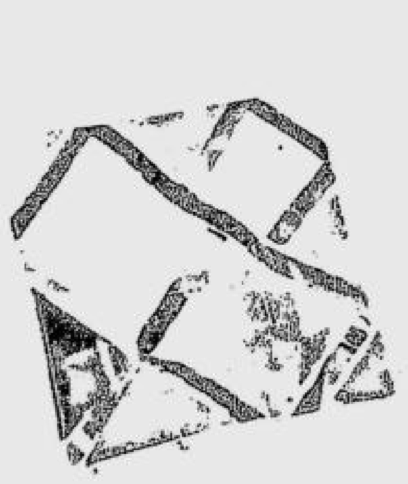
Oceanic 1911's Murano items come in attractive colors and in all shapes and sizes, from ashtrays to vases to perfume bottles, desk clocks to decorative plates displaying replicas of famous European paintings.

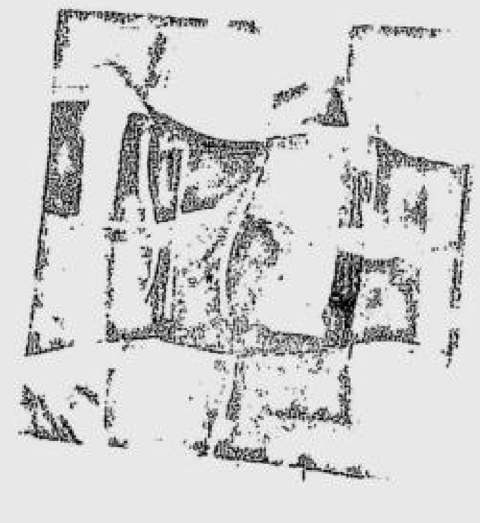
Visit any Oceanic store and check-out its line of exclusive Murano glass works. Oceanic 1911 stores are located in Glorietta 1, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Festival Mall, SM Northmall, SM City Manila, Ayala Center Gebu and Robinsons Bacolod.



HAND-BLOWN Murano

COLORFUL hand-blown Murano desk clock from Italy





HAND-BLOWN Murano decorated plate

HAND-BLOWN Murano decorated plate from Italy which comes in different designs and sizes

He's wired and wants everyone else to be, too

MEET Khalil Kaimo at the Cyber Madness PC-Internet Festival. Go crazy over unbeatable deals on PC and laptop packages brought to you by PLDT Vibe and myDSL.

HE surfs the net, logs on to the hippest websites, downloads the latest music, communicates via e-mail, plays games online and, like any teener, does his homework with the help of his personal computer.

Khalil Javier Kaimo could well be a spokesperson for his generation.

The Star Circle Batch 9 graduate started in show business early. Better known as one-half of the Roy & Al duo in a popular softdrink commercial series and as Nacho in ABS-CBN's teen show "Berks," Kaimo has been modeling since he was a toddler. He has appeared in different shows on television and the stage, including Trumpets' productions such as "Joseph the Dreamer" and "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe."

His father, newscaster-host Mari Kaimo and theater actress mom, the former Enchang Agudo, are the young actor's biggest influences.

Aside from acting, the young Kaimo also likes to sing and draw and listens to R&B music. He enjoys hanging out with friends at the mall like most young people his age.

Kaimo says he is pretty dependent on technology and goes on to explain why he has been tapped by PLDT to perform in its Cyber Madness PC-Internet Festival, which ends today, May 18, at the Glorietta Activity Center. "It's so easy for me to talk about computers because I grew up with that at home."

A junior at Thames International School, Kaimo sees the advancement of technology as unavoidable and dreams of seeing young Filipinos wired and connected to each other.

PLDT's Cyber Madness will offer loaded PCs at less than P15,000 bundled with PLDT Vibe or MyDSL.

Aside from Kaimo, Cyber Madness features 17:28, the Click Barkada, the Manouvers, Radha and Akafellas this weekend at the Cyber Madness.

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Grand prix races with your food, anyone?

STREETLIFE Remix, Makati's food and entertainment hub, hosts special screenings of Formula 1 Grand Prix races beginning this month.

It features F1 heroes led by Michael Schumacher, Kinzi Raikkonen and Fernando Alonso with one appetizing serving of Streetlife's pica-pica choices plus one cold bottle of local beer all for an affordable price of P150 per person. Follow the excitement of F1 races as the best drivers in the world compete in the Grand Prixs of Austria starting in May all the way to Japan in October on Streetlife Remix in cooperation with Dream Broadcasting. Visit Streelife Remix@Planetgimmick.com.

Musical fashion show at Power Plant

POWER. Plant Mall will present Rockin' Retro, a musical fashion show featuring Gingersnaps and Just G's collection.

The event relives the fashionable '50s with backless sun dresses with flared skirts, tops in red checks, aqua and white stripes matched with reinvented denim skirts and pants reminiscent of the hit musical "Grease" or Marilyn Monroe.

A musicale from Trumpets' Playshop Kids along with games and other surprises will cap the show.

Go Rockin' Retro at Power Plant Mall on May 25, 4-6 p.m.

THE Precious Moments BABY COLLECTION
Sharing Precious Moments With Your Baby

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First smiles. First steps. First words. Your baby's first years will be full of milestones. With The **Precious Moments** Baby Collection, your little angel can enjoy every moment from playtime to dreamtime.

100% COTTON. Touch. Feel. Cuddle. Hug. Moms and Dads just can't get enough of their little ones. For baby's soft, delicate skin, we use only the finest 100% cotton fabrics for 100% baby comfort. Rich textures from a premium interlock fabric to a velvet-soft French terry material are used in our spring-summer 2003 collection. Go ahead and feel the goodness of 100% cotton.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES. Quality and Value – the perfect partnership. With products starting at only P24.75, The **Precious Moments** Baby Collection is the perfect choice for wise moms.

COMPARE AND SAVE. The **Precious Moments** Baby Collection does not only showcase the finest quality in infant's layettes but understands the challenge of every mom to compare prices and save without compromising her baby's needs.

The **Precious Moments** Baby Collection offers the basic essentials that make up a baby's first wardrobe at a great value. **Precious Moments** is the obvious choice when looking for baby's layettes - clothing and accessories that a newborn needs. Sleeveless pullovers, t-shirts, bodysuits, pajamas, bibs, receiving blankets, caps, booties, sleepers and more, all make up a baby's first wardrobe.

PERFECT FOR GIFT GIVERS. All the items in The **Precious Moments** Baby Collection are designed to mix and match seamlessly, so outfitting a precious baby is easy for mothers and gift-givers alike.

Choose from a wide variety of colors, prints and styles. The **Precious Moments** Baby Collection is available for babies newborn through two years old.

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Vest	P44.75
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Enjoy meal time with this Snap-on Feeder Bib in French Terry, Embroidered, P69.75

After bath time, wrap him with love as you dry him up with this unbelievably soft Hooded Towel, 2-ply, French Terry, P169.75

God's Most Precious Gift

Because the littlest member of your family is our biggest priority, our baby products are designed with the softest, most comfortable 100% cotton fabrics, intricate details and classic baby themes.

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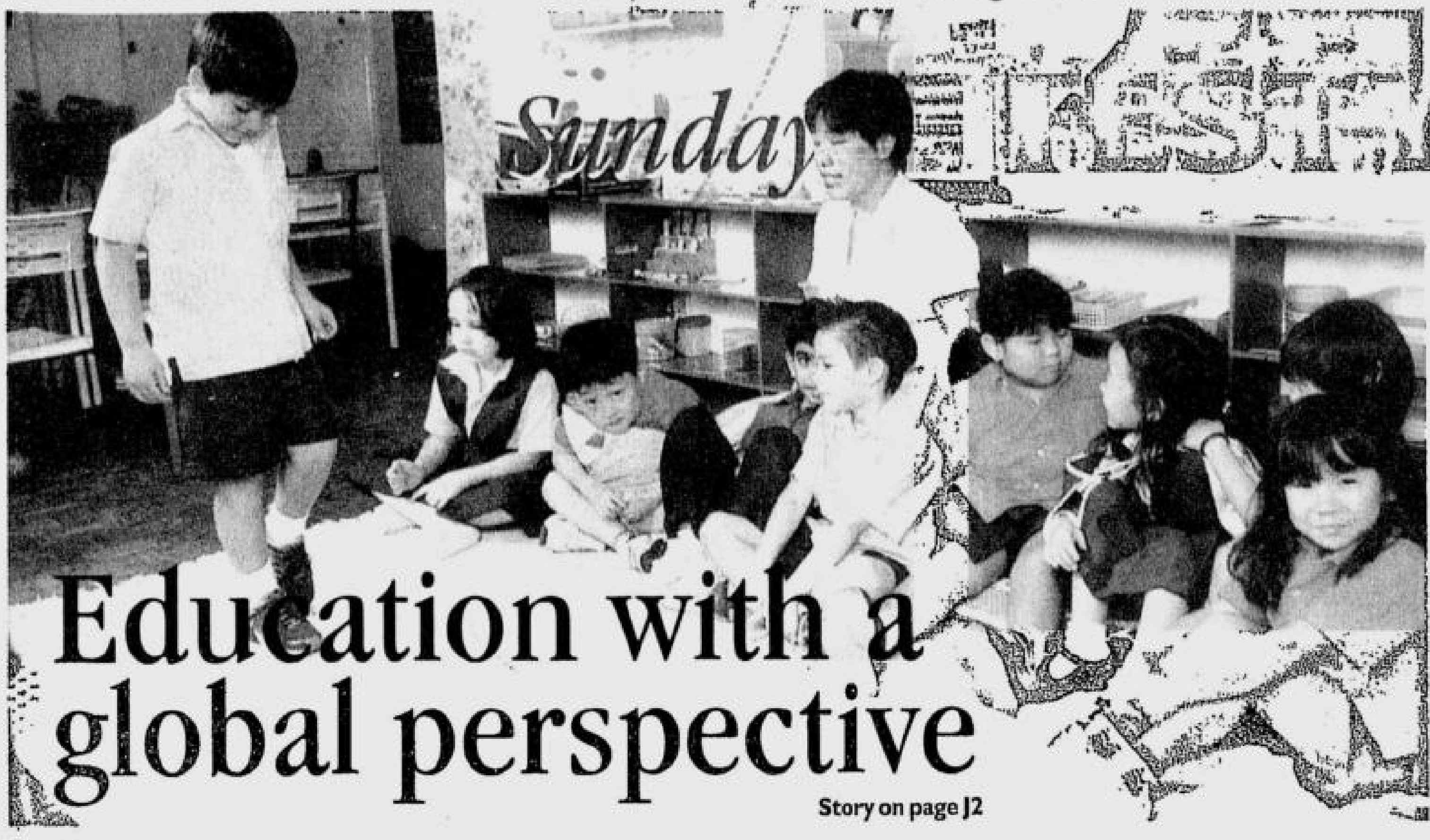

Education with a global perspective

School nurtures Filipino values and celebrates all cultures and faiths

Story on page J2

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GRADE SCHOOLERS at The Esteban School

ABOUT 60 percent of the students come from other countries

Education with a global perspective

FOR parents who are looking for a school with small class sizes, highly trained teachers and motivated students, a school that is internationally accredited and maintains a global perspective, then read on about the Esteban International School.

The school enrolls over 150 students representing over 20 nationalities and is accepting children from preschool up to Grade six. The school is a member of the European Council of International Schools (Ecis) and is implementing the International Baccalaureate (Ibo) curriculum.

These organizations accredit leading international schools both here and abroad. They regularly monitor the performance of their member schools to ensure that the highest international standards of education are maintained. For more information about these organizations, visit www.ecis.org and www.ibo.org.

Eleanor Powell-Esteban, the founder of The Esteban International School, says, "We are Filipinos and we encourage Filipino values, but we are also an international school with as much as 60 percent of our students coming from different countries. We welcome and celebrate all cultures and faiths. The global citizen of tomorrow is strong in his own identity which is strengthened further by developing friendships with people of different ideas, cultures and faiths."

The curriculum that the school adopts is designed to empower students to be responsible for their learning. The Ibo curriculum is implemented, either in whole or in part, by leading international schools around the world. There are currently 1,365 IB schools in 122 countries that are Ibo accredited.

In The Esteban International School, religion classes are offered as an elective.

The school is in the compound of the Nutritional Center of the Philippines along Pasong Tamo Extension.

Its commitment to international education extends to postgraduate programs through its alliance with the University of Western Australia, one of the leading Sandstone universities in Australia. The Esteban International School offers an 18-month MBA program held in Manila, where nine out of 12 senior professors fly into Manila to personally facilitate classes. Ibo Students receive their degree from the University of Western Australia.

Call 844-9913 or 15 for grade school, 843-9065 or 845-4190 for pre-school and 844-2812 or 887-6391 for the MBA program.

ALL IN THE FAMILY: Eleanor Powell-Esteban, superintendent of The Esteban School; Christine Esteban-Norton, pre-school OIC and Tony Esteban, executive director of University of Western Australia MBA program

SUSAN Baker, homeroom teacher

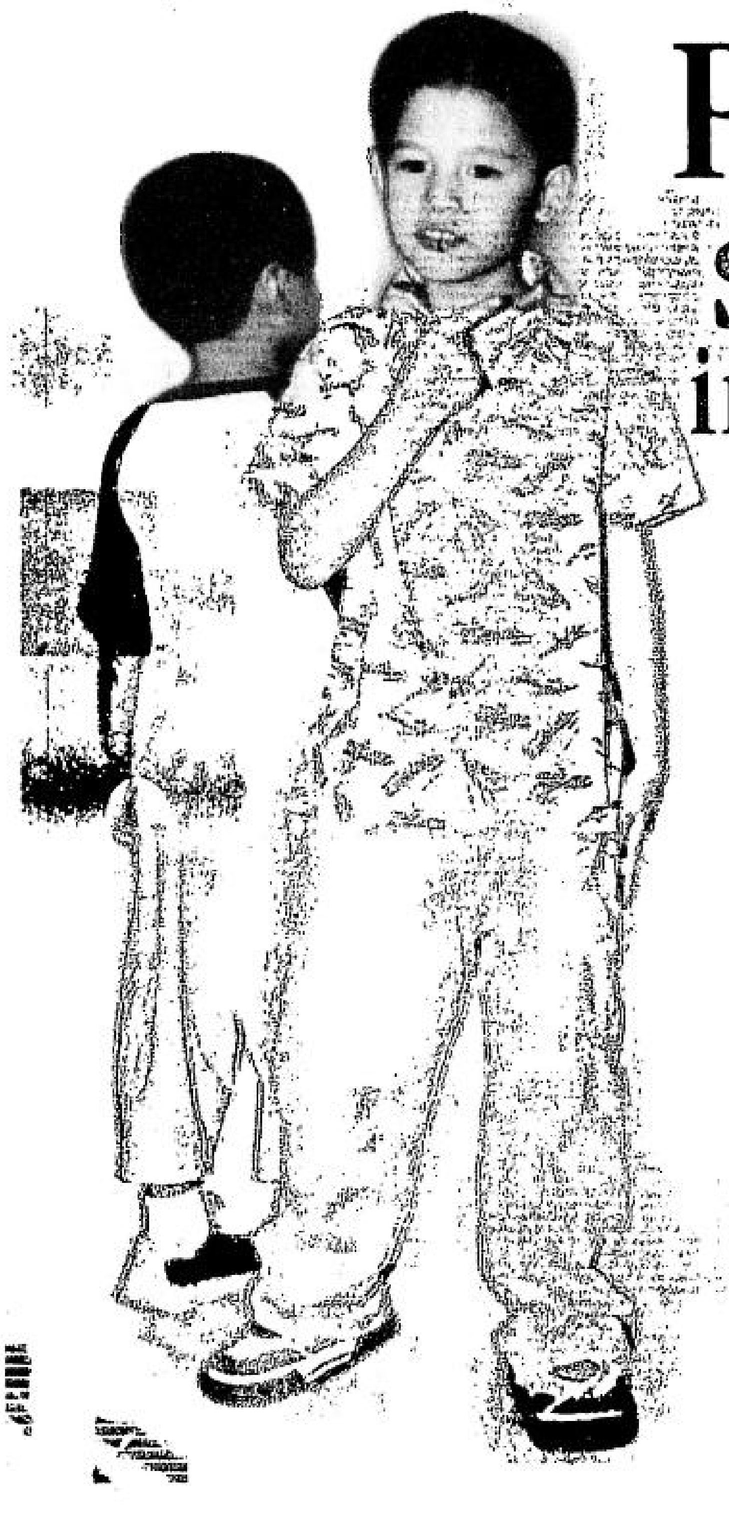
LINA LUNA, second- and third-grade teacher

Play and sleep in style

JELLYBEAN, the newest hip boutique for children's clothing and accessories located at SM City Bicutan and Shoppesville Greenhills, recently launched its playwear and sleepwear collections with a kids' fashion show, "Fashion Parade," at Mandarin Oriental, Manila.

Printed cotton pajamas, tees, shorts and pants for boys' rugged play and pretty tees, skirts and denims for fashionable little girls were featured.

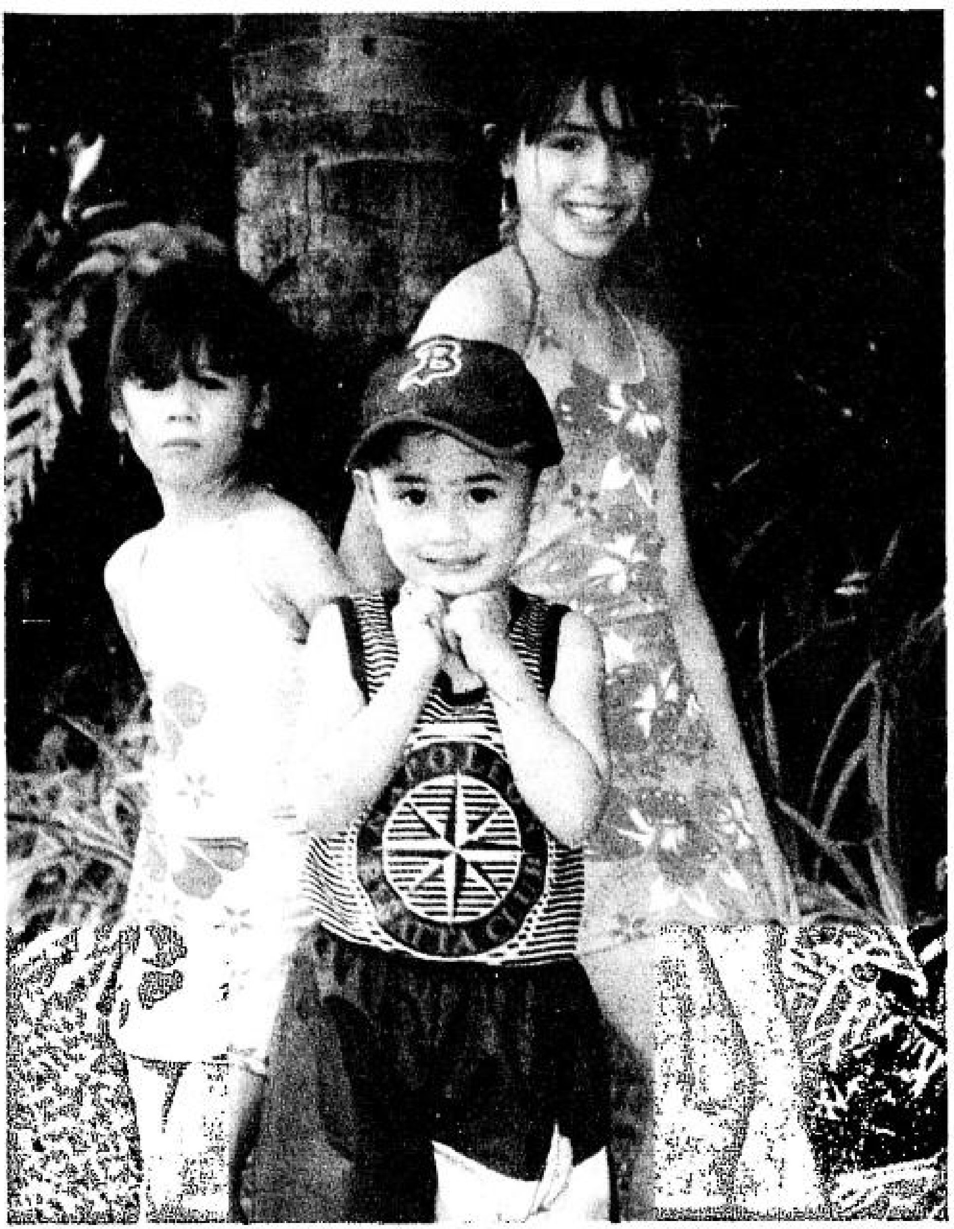
Jellybean outlets are located at Building A of SM City in Bicutan, Taguig City (822-9170) and Level B of Shoppesville Arcade (721-1920) in Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan.



BOYS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN. Jellybean boys have fun. (From left) Saachi in a white raglan shirt with a bicycle printed on the side and khaki cargo shorts with taping detail. Janos in a white button-down shirt with all-over car print and khaki cargo shorts with drawstring detail. Schyler in khaki striped button-down shirt and khaki twill pants with taping on the side and drawcord detail. Raphael in a navy blue raglan shirt with skate print and khaki drawstring pants with taping details. Utilitarian-inspired on DJ in blue checkered button-down polo with epaulet details and khaki clam digger with drawcord detail.

RISE AND SHINE. Kids can have fun waking up in these colorful and comfortable Jellybean jammies in various prints: geometric, plaid, fish, bear, floral, butterfly, airplane.

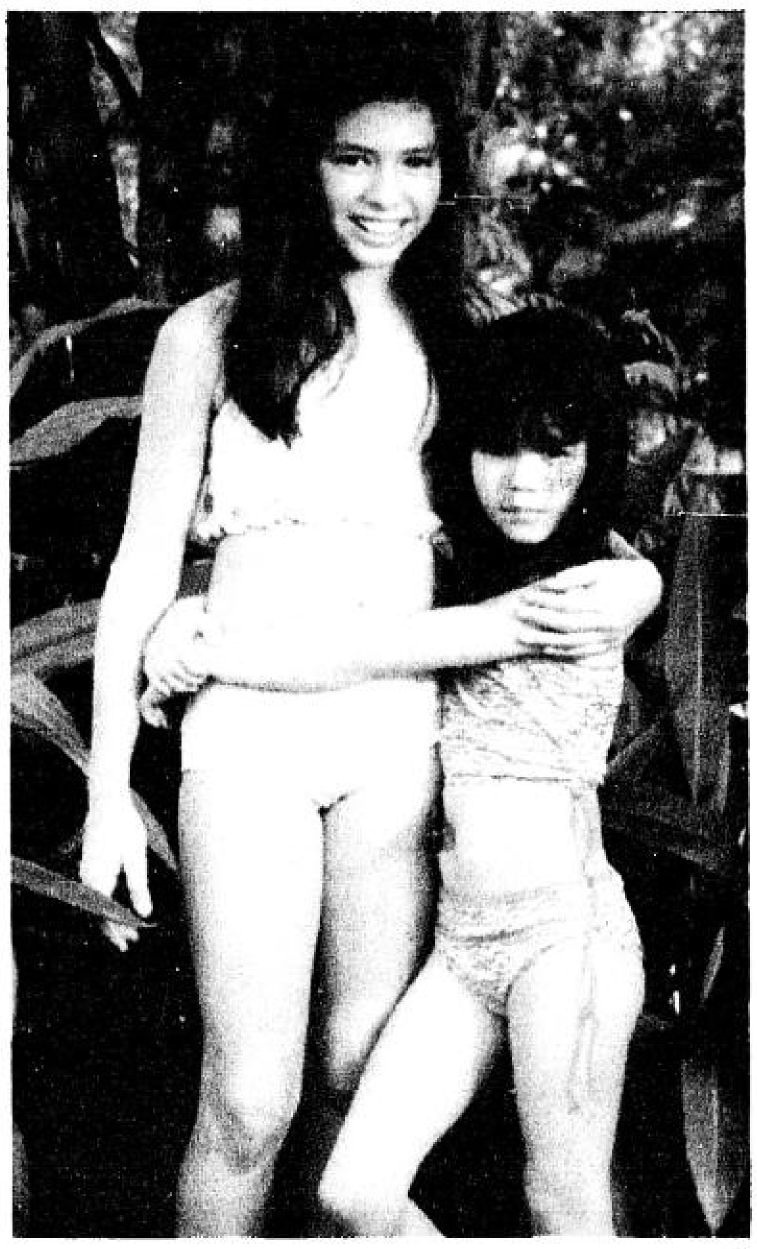
I WANNA BE A JELLYBEAN SUPERMODEL. Allegra (right) looks pretty in a white butterfly-patched top with ruffled sleeves and black ruffled skirt with cotton lace and gingham accent, while Elise poses like a pro in a white "sweetie" top and floral embroidered denims with whiskers and sandblasting effect accented by leather belt, all from Jellybean.



Kiddie fashion that spells fun

CROSSINGS Department Store presents the coolest in boys and girls fashion, from short sets with logos and designs from a variety of famous cartoon characters and trunks in solid and bright stripes. For young misses, florals, fruits and rainbow colors are the season's latest in haltered and smock tops paired with overlap miniskirts, shorts, leggings and capris. Bathing suits come in two-piece and maillot with peek-a-boo on back and dainty ruffles.

Crossings Department Store is located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City; Rizal Avenue, Manila; Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. and Northridge Plaza, Congressional Avenue, Quezon City.



TWO-PIECE TANK swimwear for young misses by Barbie

SUMMER GET-UPS in fresh floral prints in haltered tank and mini skirt coordinates (left and right) for young misses and a cotton top and shorts with sailor motif from Napoleon, available at Crossings Department Store

Casual wear for summer

THE COOLNESS of skin, freshness of colors and lightness of hues highlight Jag Jeans 2003 summer collection.

Girls and guys frolic under the sun wearing the latest Jag summer fashion in bubble gum pink, mint green, mellow yellow, sweet cherries and popsicle blue.

Denim is still the basic fashion item—from flared and low-waist jeans to super-short cutoffs and workman's jeans. Also sizzling are laid-back cargos and khakis—perfect for daywear and beachwear.

Jag's playful prints and trendy styles hit the fashion wave with high intensity—from color bursts and psychedelic scripts to jersey marks and trendy logos.

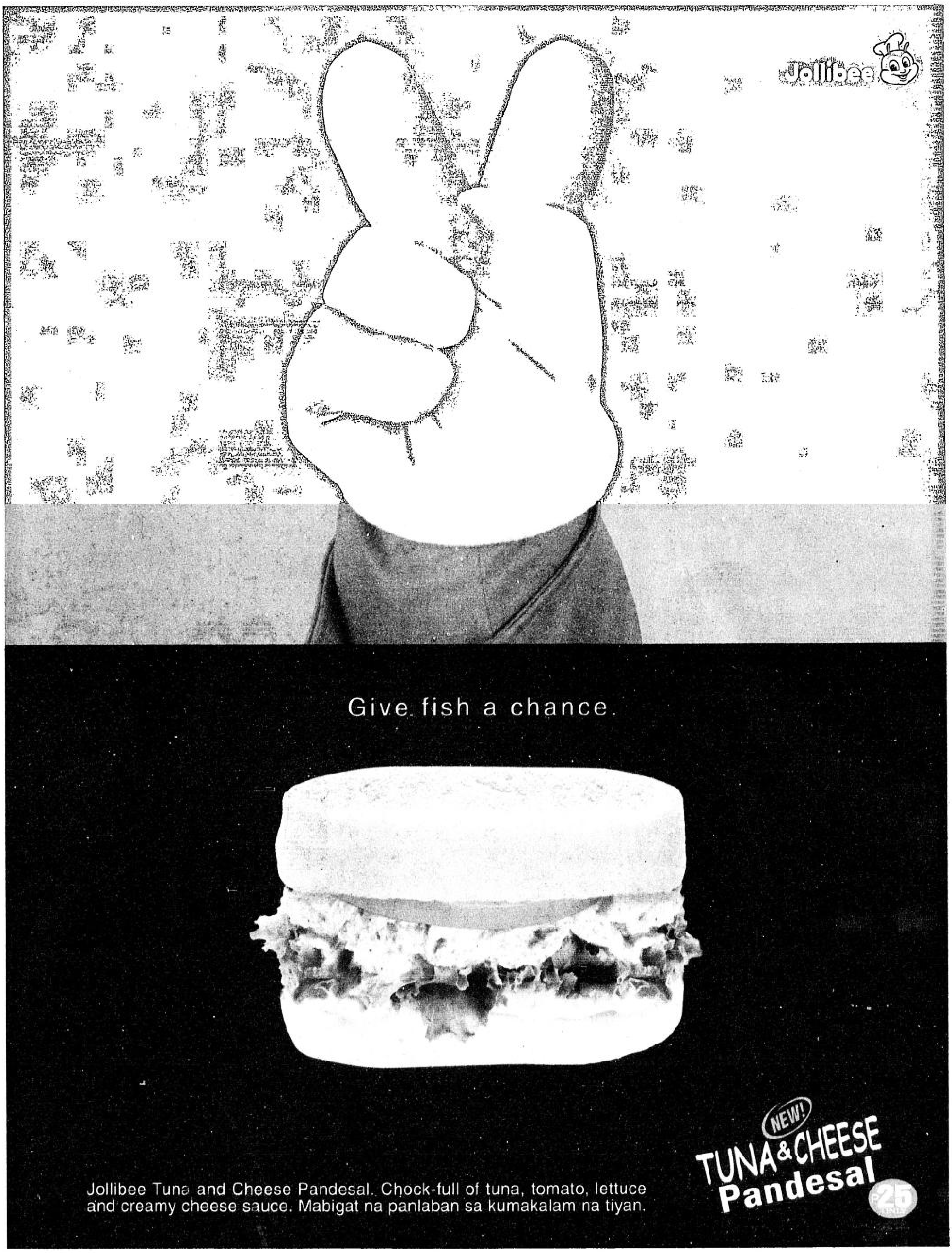
Available at Jag Jeans boutiques and stand-alone stores in Glorietta 1, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Imus, Robinsons Cebu, Robinsons Iloilo, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza, Designers Depot and Jaka Plaza.

Appliance sale offers 0 percent interest

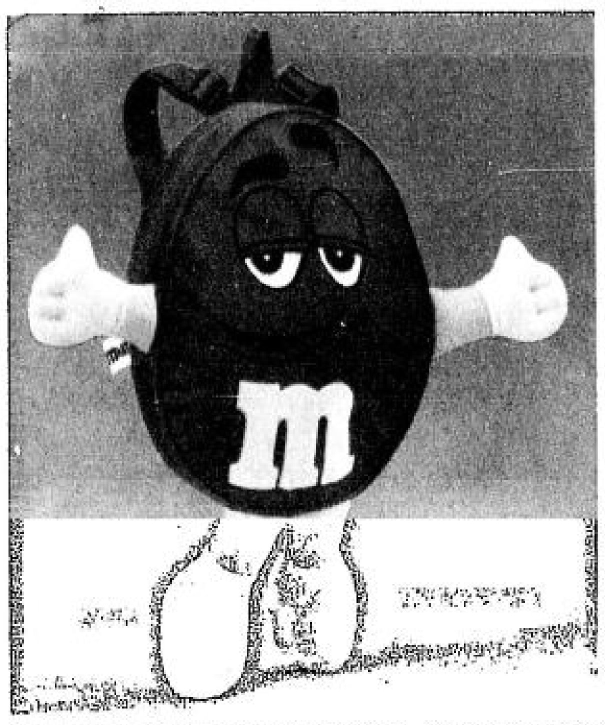
AVID Sales Corporation is holding an appliance sale until May 31 at Isetann Carriedo and Cubao with big discounts and zero-percent interest on selected Sony, Samsung and Sharp appliances.

Appliances for sale include room air conditioners, refrigerators and mini conditioners, refrigerators and mini components. Great value packages such as a single tub washing machine with free flat iron are also offered on cash and credit card purchases and easy-own appliance loans.

Call 733-8201 local 318 for Carriedo and 912-1901 local 261 for Cubao.



Jollibee Tuna and Cheese Pandesal. Chock-full of tuna, tomato, lettuce and creamy cheese sauce. Mabigat na panlaban sa kumakalam na tiyan.



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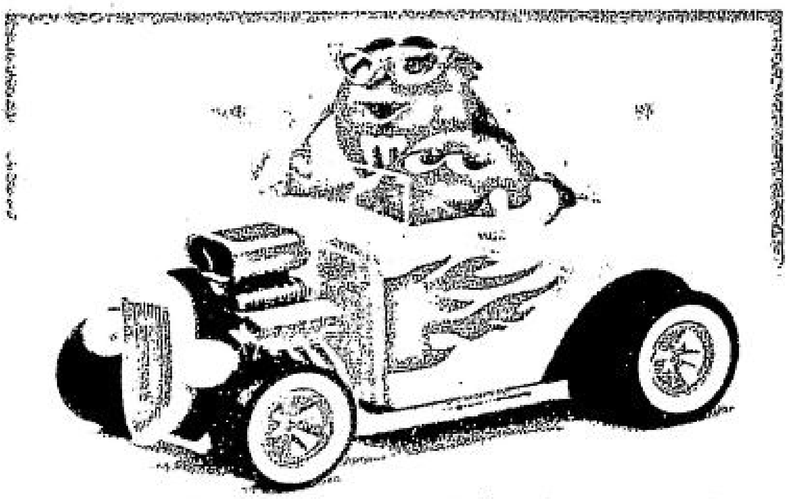

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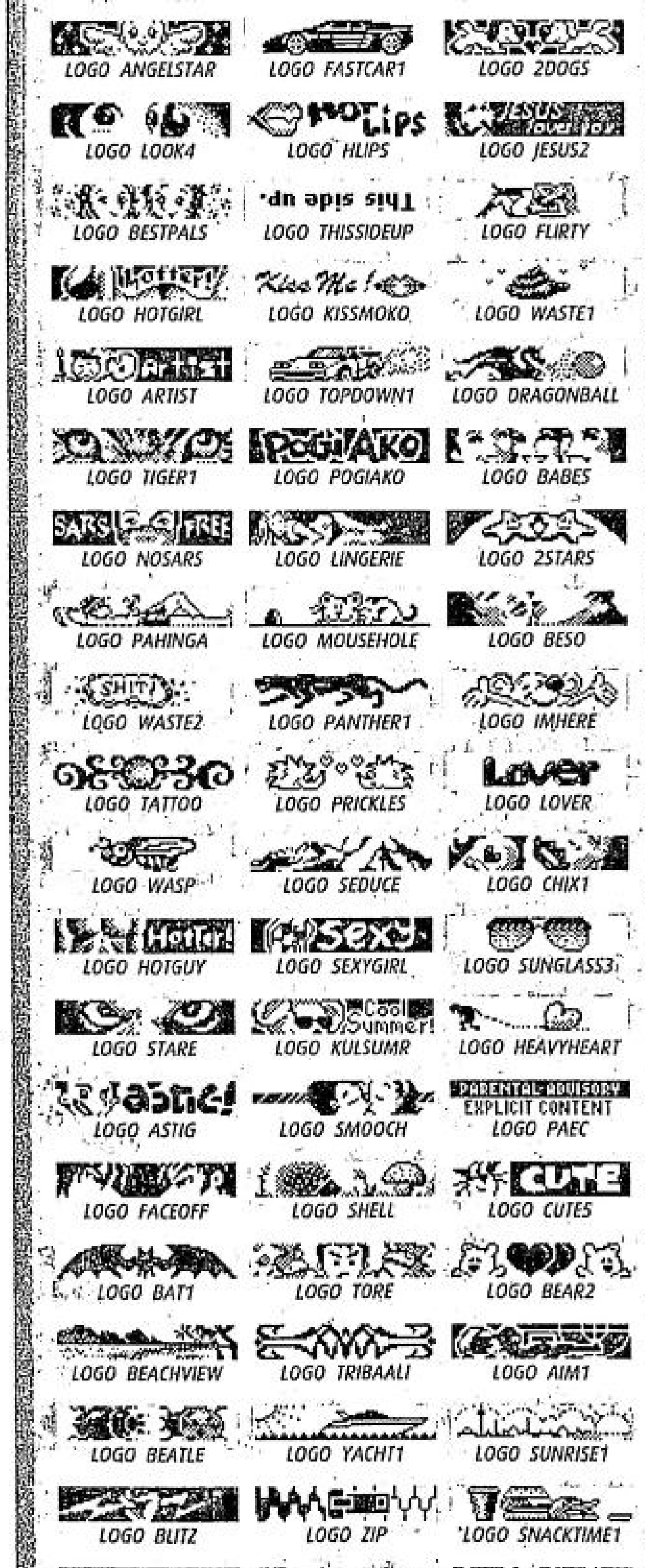
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211. Series of 2003.

Logos



LOGO ANGELSTAR
LOGO FASTCAR1
LOGO 2DOGS
LOGO LOOK4
LOGO HLIPS
LOGO JESUS2
LOGO BESTPALS
LOGO THISSIDEUP
LOGO FLIRTY
LOGO HOTGIRL
LOGO KISSMOKO
LOGO WASTE1
LOGO ARTIST
LOGO TOPDOWN1
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LOGO PAHINGA
LOGO MOUSEHOLE
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LOGO ASTIG
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LOGO FACEOFF
LOGO SHELL
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LOGO BAT1
LOGO TORE
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LOGO BEACHVIEW
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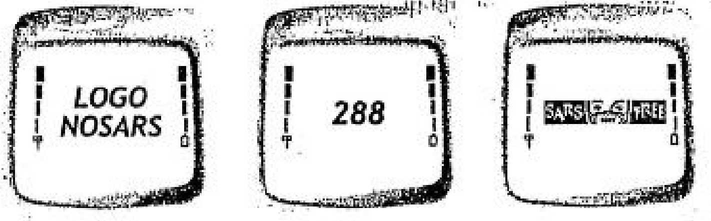

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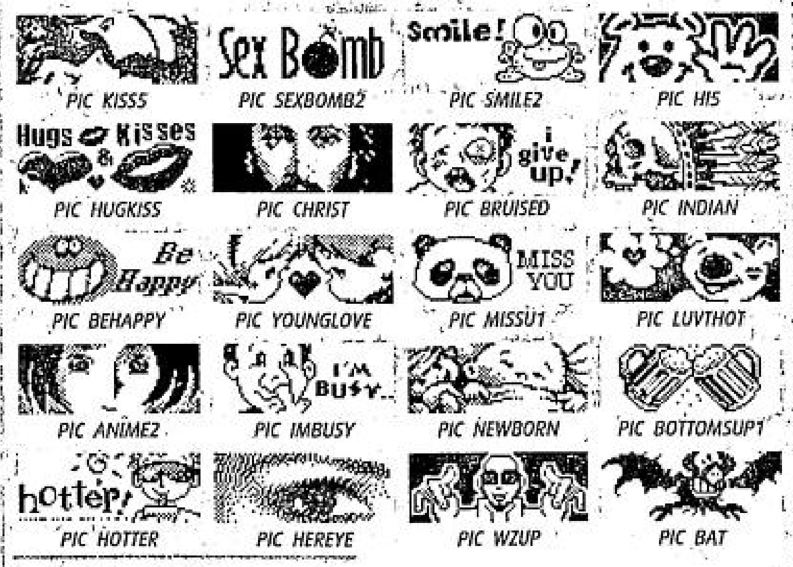

PIC KISS5
PIC SEXBOMB2
PIC SMILE2
PIC HI5
PIC HUGKISS
PIC CHRIST
PIC BRUISED
PIC INDIAN
PIC BEHAPPY
PIC YOUNGLOVE
PIC MISSU1
PIC LUVTHOT
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PIC IMBUSY
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Forevermore
Side A Band
TONE 4EVERMORE

Dilemma
Nelly
TONE DILEMMA

I Miss You
Aaliyah
TONE IMISS

The Real Slim Shady
Eminem
TONE SLIMSHADY

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Usher
TONE UGOTIT

Sway
Bic Runga
TONE SWAY

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Nickelback
TONE REMINDME

Stillness Of Heart
Lenny Kravitz
TONE STILLNESS

Tabing Ilog
Barbie's Cradle
TONE TABING

Don't Dream It's Over
Sixpence None The Richer
TONE DONTDRM

American Life
Madonna
TONE AMERICAN

If You're Not The One
Daniel Bedingfield
TONE IFYOURNOT

Asereje
Las Ketchup
TONE ASEREJE

Bring Me To Life
Evanesence
TONE BRINGME

Disease
Matchbox Twenty
TONE DISEASE

Mottaka
Cheese
TONE MOTTAKA

I Care For You
Aaliyah
TONE ICARE

Money For Food
Barbie's Cradle
TONE MONEYFOR

Feel
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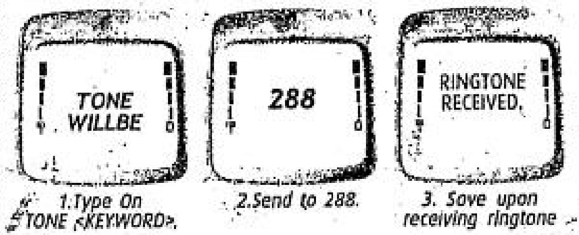

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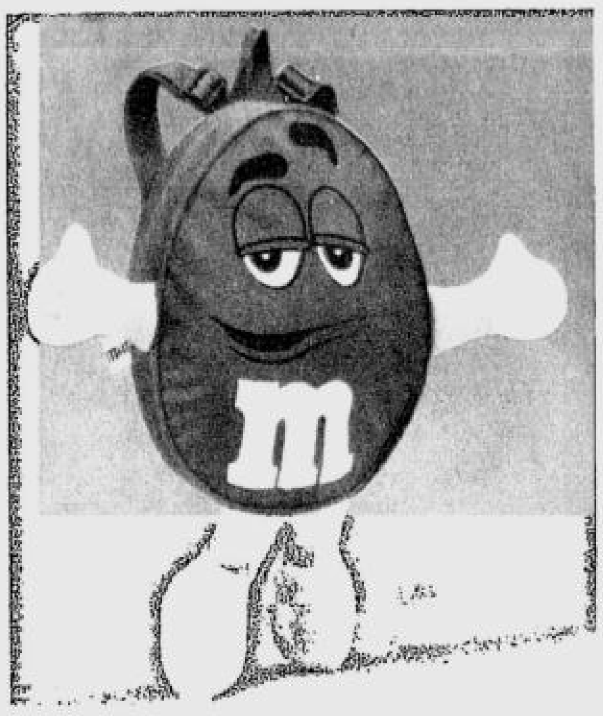

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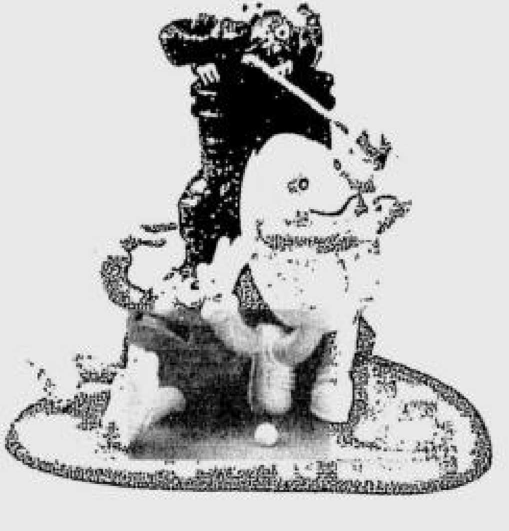

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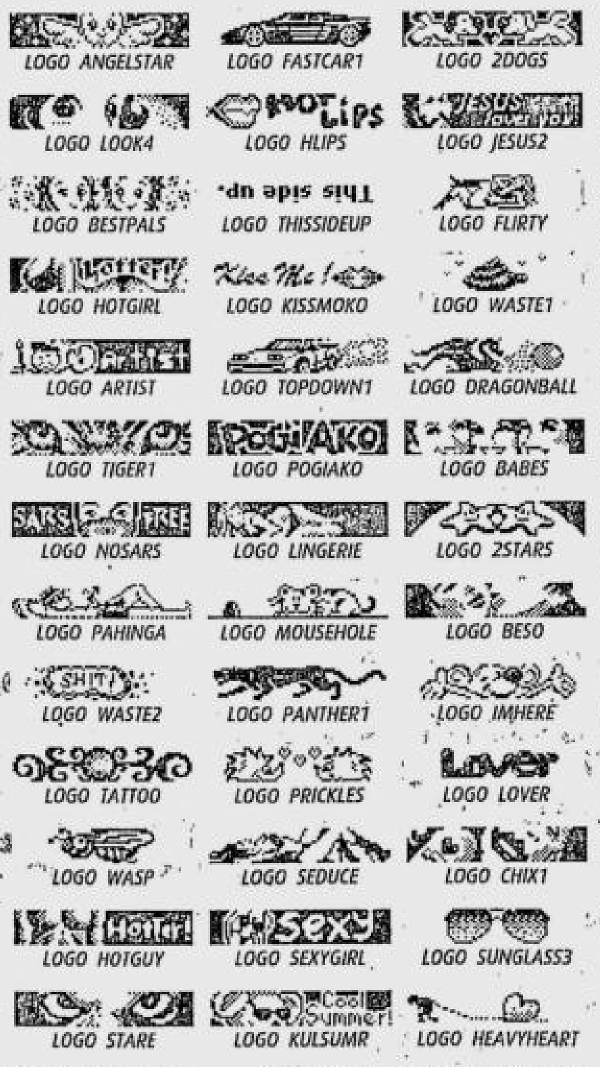

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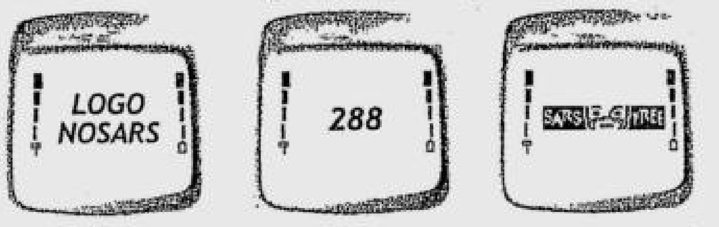

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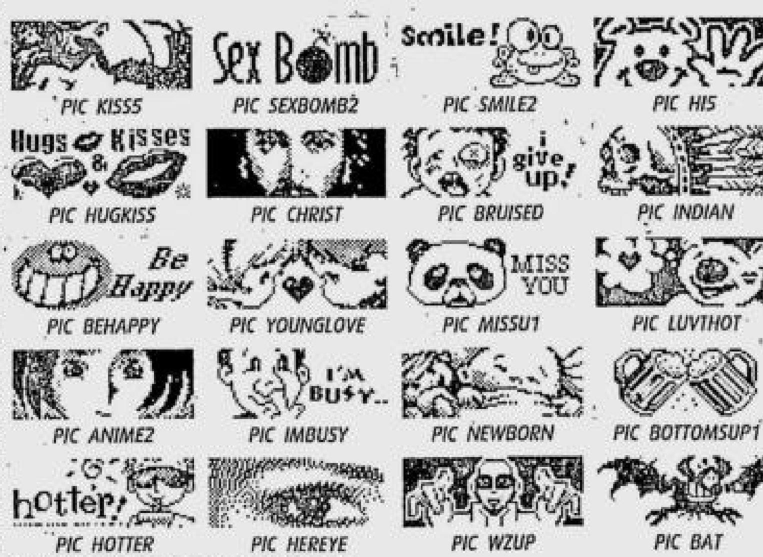

Sex Bomb
Smile!
Hugs & Kisses
i give up!
Be Happy
MISS YOU
I'M BUSY..
hotter!

PIC KISS5
PIC SEXBOMB2
PIC SMILE2
PIC HIS
PIC HUGKISS
PIC CHRIST
PIC BRUISED
PIC INDIAN
PIC BEHAPPY
PIC YOUNGLOVE
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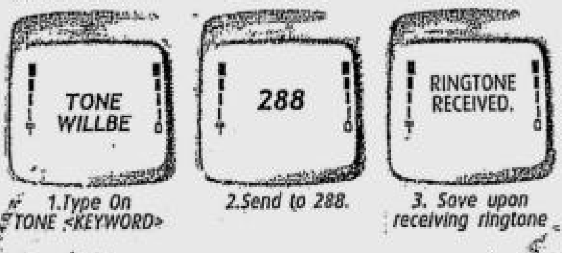

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

SOON, Science teachers in 40 schools across the country, like these teachers from Cotabato City, will benefit from text2teach, the Philippine pilot of the international Bridgeit project, which uses mobile and satellite technologies to deliver educational programs to teachers and students who otherwise would not have access to these materials.

Your weird science lesson is just a text away

By Alex Y. Vergara

FOR CELL phone-crazy Filipinos, there's more to life than sending mindless green jokes and irritating chain texts.

Through the Bridgeit program, a collaboration of Nokia, the International Youth Foundation (IYF), Pearson and the United Nations Development Programme, online Science ed-

YOUR/ K2

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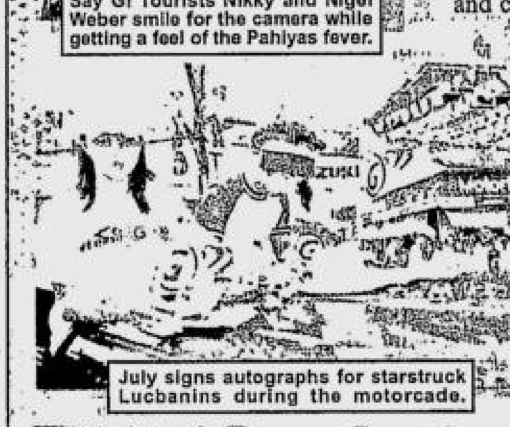
Great Globe Connections

Intensity G Shakes Up Pahiyas 2003

July, Globe Hi-Memory Sim endorser, leaps in ecstatic Pahiyas mood.

Say G! Tourists Nikky and Nigel Weber smile for the camera while getting a feel of the Pahiyas fever.



July signs autographs for starstruck Lucbanins during the motorcade.

In your face! July shows off the Globe Hi-Memory Sim to Lucbanins.

The Philippines is known far and wide as a fiesta-loving nation. One of the country's biggest and most celebrated fiestas is the *Pahiyas*. Culled from the word *Payas* which in Quezon province literally means agricultural harvests, it is a much anticipated and well-attended festivity in the quiet and historic town of Lucban.

Globe recently transformed this year's *Pahiyas* festival into a dizzying explosion of sight, sound, and color, showcasing the town's unique traditions, agricultural produce, ornamental plants, native crafts and delicacies.

Intensity G celebrated this year's *Pahiyas* via a major sponsorship of the week-long festival and its primary events such as the *Gayak Anihan Karosa, Pili Timpalak Pahiyas, Pili Timpalak Pahiyas Kutitap* and *Pasyalan Tanghalan.*

"Sponsoring *Pahiyas* 2003 was a wonderful way to connect with the people of Lucban. It's our way of paying tribute to the townspeople's unique artisan skills and craftsmanship. Being the biggest fiesta event during the summer season, we really have to be here, to celebrate with the people," said Reggie De Mesa, Senior Product Manager for Globe.

More than just a sensory and cultural experience, *Pahiyas* also afforded merrymakers the visceral delights of shopping for traditional crafts such as *buri* hats, bags and mats or sample native delicacies such as *broas, tikoy* and the *longganisa* for which Lucban is highly known for.

Tourists on the lookout for the best cellphone deals likewise flocked to the Intensity G sales blitzes at Lucban's Rizal Park and Agro-Fair Zone and in nearby Lucena City. The Intensity G sales blitzes is the best place to find the latest Globe Handyphones, affordable postpaid plans and the remarkable Globe Prepaid Hi-Memory Sim.

Amidst the joyful peal of ringing bells and footstomping of marching bands, *Gayak Anihan Karosa* kicked-off within the walls of the centuries old St. Louis of Toulouse Church in the center of town on the afternoon of May 14. Farmers proudly decked carabao-drawn *karosas* with ornamental plants and flowers, indigenous handicrafts or the choice yields of this year's harvests such as chayote, radish, pepper and grains of rice in honor of San Isidro Labrador, patron saint of farmers.

The parade, animated by the Globe Marching Band, made its way around town through what is called the *Pahiyas* Route. The *Pahiyas* Route varies from year to year so as to give every household a chance to participate in the celebration.

Lucban was at a hush and standstill by early morning of May 15, just before the climax of the weeklong thanksgiving festivities --- *Pili Timpalak Pahiyas.* Judges from the Committee of Arts and Culture, as well as from the Committee of Programs and Contest were up and about the *Pahiyas* Route in search of houses with the most imaginative and creative adornments of brightly colored *kiping*, agricultural harvest and other native materials

After the awards for the best houses were given, the crowds once again flocked to the *Pahiyas* Route to get a glimpse of popular Globe Hi-Memory Sim endorser July in a Globe sponsored motorcade during the *Pasyalan Tanghalan,* Lucky were the local neighborhood of Lucban, as they got to mingle and interact with July as he went to check out the beautiful *kiping* decorated houses and the Globe *anok.*

By mid-afternoon, the festive atmosphere reached fever pitch when the Globe Marching Band advanced along the processional and parade grounds during the marching band parade.. At dusk, houses with the most beautiful lighting effects were selected by the *Pahiyas* judging committees.

Capping this year's *Pahiyas* was the Globe sponsored concert at the Rizal Park. Local and Manila-based talents roused up the crowd with heart-thumping music that had everyone dancing all night long.

"*Pahiyas* was a testimony to the creativity of the Filipinos. It's a celebration of our native culture that we can really be proud of. The whole idea behind the celebration of the *Pahiyas* was to give thanks to the year's bountiful harvest. We at Globe, are in a way extending our gratitude to the *Lucbanins* for supporting and patronizing our products and services. It was really a pleasure to sponsor *Pahiyas 2003,* " concluded Ailene Averion, Globe Prepaid Acquisitions Head.

Flower power. The *Pahiyas* celebratrion was an explosion of colors, sights and sounds.

July clowns around with Globe's *anoks* during the parade.

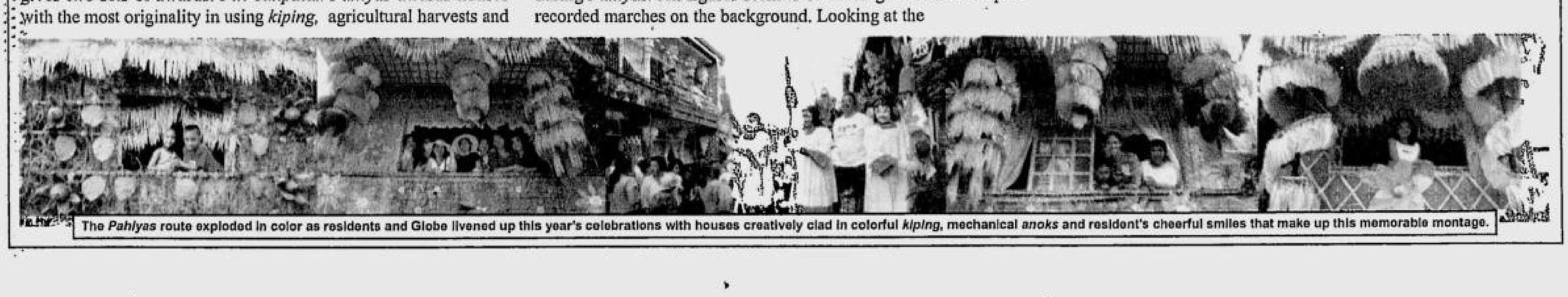
Globe Finds A Home In Lucban's Pahiyas 2003

Mention *Pahiyas* and the first thing that comes to mind are images of houses decorated in brightly colored *kiping*. These edible ornaments are actually made from ground rice flour, shaped using *çabal* leaves or other leaf forms and colored in deep red, fuschia, yellow, green and other vibrant hues. The *kipings* are strung together to form various shapes, from chandeliers known as *arangya* to huge flowers. When *kipings* catch the light of the sun it gives off a breathtaking kaleidoscope of colors.

Each year, houses along the *Pahiyas* Route try to outdo each other in their creative and imaginative use of the *kiping* as an ornamental expression. Using a fixed criteria, a committee of judges gives two sets of awards. *Pili Timpalak Pahiyas* awards houses with the most originality in using *kiping,* agricultural harvests and other indigenous materials to decorate for decorative embellishment. On the other hand, *Pili Timpalak Pahiyas Kutitap* awards houses with the most dramatic and stunning lighting effects.

Of particular interest is the house on 26 Arellano Street. While making use of *kiping* and other traditional *Pahiyas* decorative motif, what sets the Globe House from the other houses was its use of the *anok.* Globe's *anok* is a set of mechanical three dimensional figures created from a combination of paper mache and wood, designed by amateur tinkerer Teddy Lagaya. Its depicts a typical *Pahiyas tableaux:* a priest with sacristans leading devout villagers in a procession of San Isidro Labrador along the streets of Lucban during *Pahiyas.* All figures seem to be moving in time to the prerecorded marches on the background. Looking at the *anok,* you can't help but feel awed by the incredible spectacle before you. It's a feeling mutually shared by the throngs of tourists who gather round the *anok* to have their pictures taken.

The *Pahiyas* is a testimony to the boundless artistry achieved through the creativity of the *Lucbanins*, who just like Globe, are always reaching out to make great things possible. "I can't help but feel impressed when I first saw our *anok,"* said Reggie de Mesa, Senior Product Manager for Globe. "Imagine, being able to come out with something that was truly original and creative from ordinary everyday things. I'm really proud that Globe was able to take part in the distinctive celebration that is *Pahiyas.*"



The *Pahiyas* route exploded in color as residents and Globe livened up this year's celebrations with houses creatively clad in colorful *kiping*, mechanical *anoks* and resident's cheerful smiles that make up this memorable montage.

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AYALA Foundation president Victoria Garchitorena, Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Virgllio Peña, Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Nokia executive vice president Veli Sundback, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and Nokia senior vice president Martin Sandelin at the text2teach launch at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila

TEXT2TEACH aims to make Science elementary education an interactive experience.

Your weird science lesson is just a text away

From page K1

ucation for Grades 5 and 6 students is just a text message away.

The four organizations are reportedly shelling out $1.5 million in cash and in kind to cover the project's start-up costs.

Less than three weeks before the opening of classes, people behind Bridgeit have launched "text2teach," which makes use of mobile technology to deliver educational videos to teachers and students even in the country's most remote villages.

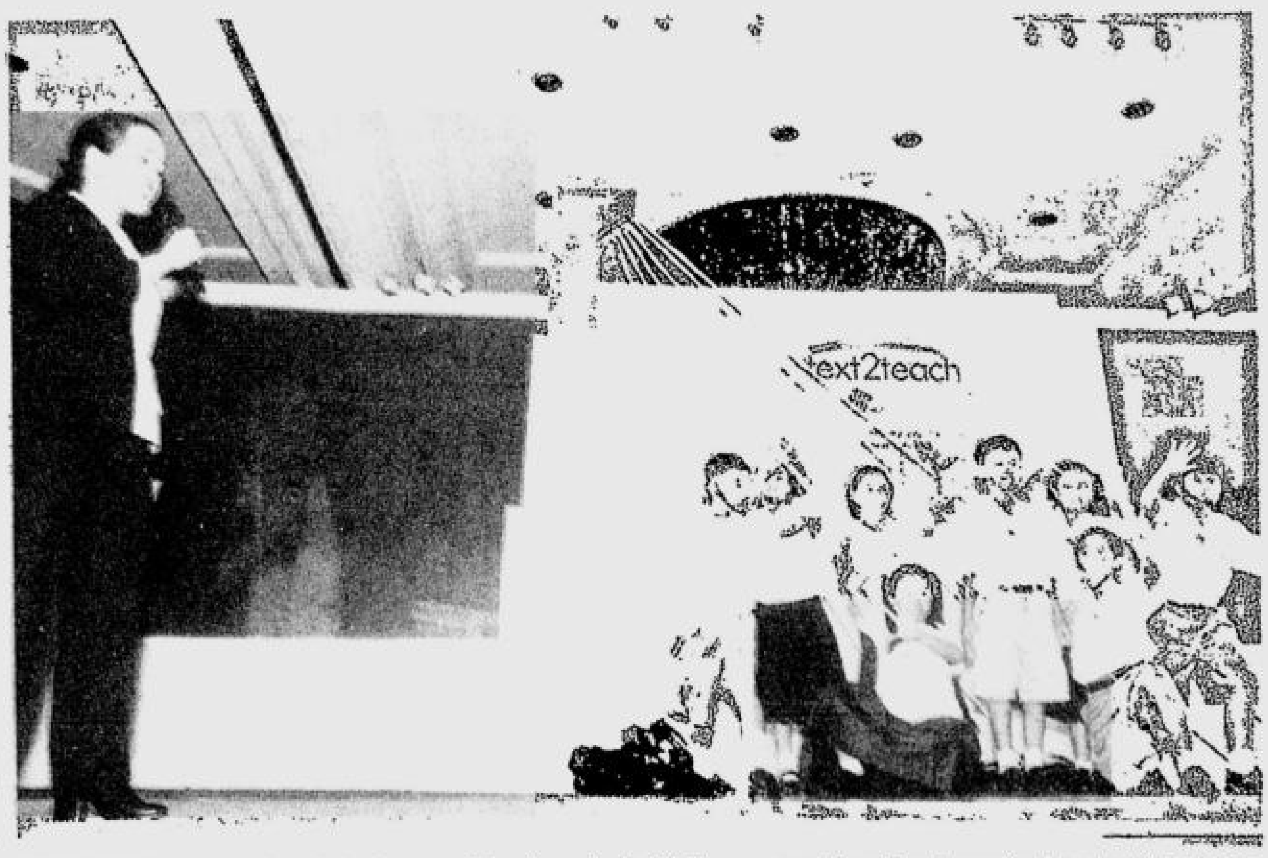
Rather than supplant the Department of Education's current science curriculum, the program aims to complement it through two- and three-minute videos in English produced by Pearson.

"A dozen or so Science teachers and district supervisors from selected schools sat down and chose the videos applicable to their students," says Dr. Erlinda Pefianco, director, Seameo-Innotech.

"The videos' contents are aligned with the department's curriculum," says DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus.

The short videos are designed to supplement and make the learning experience more fun for both teachers and students.

After a yearlong pilot run in the Philippines, Bridgeit hopes to implement the program in other developing countries.



STUDENTS and a teacher of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education dramatize how text2teach can help improve science learning.

A SET-TOP box and a mobile phone

Bridgeit seeks to make Science education easily accessible online to elementary students

To gain most

"English is widely spoken in the Philippines," says Martin Sandelin, senior vice president of Nokia. "The infrastructure [for such a medium] is also excellent. The country stands to gain most from this program because of its geography."

Ayala Foundation oversees the project locally. Together with the DepEd and Seameo-Innotech, the IYF has started training 80 teachers to use the technology to benefit more than 10,000 students across the country.

Globe Telecom, Nokia-Philippines, PMSI-Dream Broadcasting and Chikka Asia are providing technical support to meet the program's hardware, software and communication requirements.

"We've developed a relationship with a number of institutions like Nokia," says Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, top honcho of Ayala Corp. and co-vice chair of Ayala Foundation. "In recent years, the Ayala Foundation has started putting more emphasis on technology and education. It was just a matter of putting the whole group together."

Unless they've held on to their chunky analog cell phones all these years, digital-savvy teachers won't have a hard time downloading the videos. Each school will get a Nokia unit, digital recorder and TV.

Through their cell phones, science teachers from 40 elementary schools all over the country can now choose from more than 80 full-length educational videos from Pearson's so-called KnowledgeBox text2teach Video Library, a server containing answers or explanations to the most commonly asked questions involving science.

Upon texting, the requested video will be sent via satellite to a digital recorder connected to a TV in the teacher's classroom. Each video's interactive demonstration of science concepts and ideas are expected to benefit both teachers and students.

New skills

"The program will enable teachers to use digital technology to share and illustrate new ideas with their students," says Victoria Garchitorena, president of the Ayala Foundation. "Students will have the opportunity to learn new skills, to participate actively in classroom lessons with their teachers, and to learn and see more about the world around them."

Think of the downloaded videos as another form of teaching aid to stimulate students' minds and enhance classroom discussions. But even the best video tackling the most provocative subject is likely to fail in the hands of an insipid teacher.

"The teachers will still be the ones to stimulate the discussion based on what the kids see on the video," says Pefianco.

A "neutral" subject such as science is just a starting point. If the program proves a success after its one-year pilot run, and depending on the funding, subjects with more local content are most likely to be added to the virtual video library. Perhaps, even on matters relating to cell-phone etiquette.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

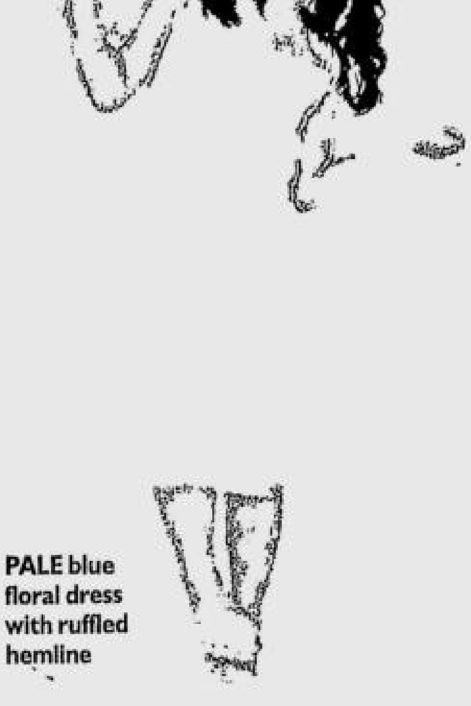
Put the magic back in kids' wear

Photos by Jun de Leon

CINDERELLA Kids puts the magic back in children's wear with its collection of party dresses and casual pieces guaranteed to bring out the best in your kids. Denim jackets and capri pants are must-haves for active youngsters. Pair them with tees in butterfly prints. Or dress your kids in cotton tank tops, V-necks, skirts and shorts in fuchsia and aqua. For formal occasions, Cinderella Kids offers party dresses that will transform your little princess into an earth angel.

Drop by the nearest Cinderella branch and get a chance to win a special prize for every P500 minimum purchase.

Cinderella Kids is exclusively available in all Cinderella branches.



PALE blue floral dress with ruffled hemline

THREE'S COMPANY. (From left) Denim jacket with a white butterfly print cotton top and denim skirt; pink butterfly blouse with ruffled detail on sleeves paired with a denim skirt; navy blue shirt with butterfly print and denim capri pants

PINK cotton blouse with tie detail on sleeves paired with a knee-length denim skirt (left); and pale blue blouse with detail on sleeves with denim capri pants

PARTY YOUNGSTERS. Pink chiffon party dress with daisy accents (left); and lavender party dress with ribbon detail on waist and double-layer hemline

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY BARNEY AGUILA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Greenbelt Chapel welcomes image of Our Lady of Caysasay

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN the image of Our Lady of Caysasay arrived at Greenbelt Chapel on May 10, strong rains put devotees in a quandary on how to bring out the image from the van for the procession that would end in the church. The devotees then prepared for the procession by putting the image inside a *virina*.

Led by Ramon Orlina, the urn was slowly pushed up the path around the chapel. Marietta Goco told me later that the rain stopped completely when they were just up a few steps. The people kept their candles lighted, while the choir inside the church kept singing "Hail Mary."

As I watched the procession from the lectern, I felt goose pimples on my arms and I was on the verge of crying. Ramon Orlina and some men carefully brought out the image and put her on the altar. The people knelt and started praying the Rosary led by Marietta Goco. At 5:30 p.m., the Novena was prayed followed by a Mass at 6 p.m., which was celebrated by Fr. Carlo Ilagan.

Much to the surprise of everyone, the chapel was full. People from Taal and those who read my column about Our Lady of Caysasay were there. Ambassador Raul Goco, this year's *hermano*, invited people to visit the shrine in Barrio Labac, Taal. This is where Our Lady wanted her chapel to be built in 1603. Four hundred years later, miracles are still happening through her intercession. Thanks to Norie Diploma for making it possible for the Virgin to stay until May 31. She will be brought back to Taal on that day after the 6 p.m. Mass. Thanks to Norma Faymalin, pastoral coordinator, for making the liturgy solemn and to Ted Arcilla who faithfully recorded the event with his camera.

Devotee's miracle in Ermita Church

Olive Carpio, a widow and employee of a barbershop, faithfully leads the Rosary before the 12:15 p.m. Mass at Ermita Church every day except Sunday. This is her way of saying "thank you" to the Nuestra Señora de Guia for helping her four years ago. Olive's daughter Mara wanted to take up a hotel and restaurant management course at PUP, but by the time Mara got there, enrollment for the course was already closed. Mara cried in a corner of the hallway facing the registrar's office. At the same time, Olive was praying to the Virgin in church, asking her to help her daughter.

RAMON Orlina (right) and devotees bring up the image of Our Lady of Caysasay inside the Greenbelt Chapel.

Mara later told her mother that a lady approached her and asked why she was crying. Mara told her the reason. The lady offered to accompany her to the registrar's office. Mara was able to enroll that day. When told about what happened, Olive went back to church again and asked the Virgin, *"Ikaw ba iyong pumunta sa anak ko?"* Then she cried because she knew that now she would not be alone to raise her daughter and send her to school. Our Lady of Guidance will always be there to help her.

Tomorrow is the fiesta of the Virgin. There will be a *bota flores* at 4:30 p.m., followed by a Holy Mass and procession. *Hermano mayor* is Lina Vizcarra Oandasa. *Recamedero* of the Virgin is Tony Adriano. Parish priest is Msgr. Jerome Reyes.

Our Lady of Hope Parish

The feast of Our Lady of Hope is on May 25. Novena Masses are now ongoing until May 24 after the 6:30 p.m. Mass. Fr. Arnel Recinto is the parish priest. He is one of the few priests who have been granted the faculty to absolve women who have committed abortion. More on Our Lady of Hope in our next column. The parish can be found on Road 3, Pag-asa, QC.

Sta. Rita de Cascia

Every year on May 22, devotees of Sta. Rita de Cascia, patron saint of impossible cases, gather at San Agustin Church for a Mass and procession honoring her. Oskar Peralta, who dresses up the *carroza* bearing the saint, made me aware of the efficacy of her intercession. Oskar's devotion began in 1967. Mass is at 5 p.m.

In Baclaran, on Quirino Avenue, is a small church dedicated to Sta. Rita de Cascia. Those who live near the place can also attend Novena Masses ongoing until May 21.

Sta. Philomena radio program

Sta. Philomena has also been invoked for one's needs. To know more about her, tune into Radio Veritas 846 at 8:30-9 p.m., every Saturday beginning May 24.

Friday Novena Masses are held at 6 p.m., at the Santuario de Sta. Philomena located in the Holy Redeemer Parish in Malac corner Inaman Streets, Masambong, QC.

Nayon photographers exhibit

In commemoration of its 10th anniversary, the Nayon Photographers' Club will mount a photo exhibit at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, May 21-June 21.

Dubbed as "A Wedding at San Agustin," the exhibit will feature over a hundred colored and black-and-white photographs that depict a romantic wedding amid the spectacular architecture of San Agustin Church and Father Blanco's Garden. Nayon members will also showcase their fresh perspectives and detailed shots of the priceless artifacts that are on display at the museum.

For more than a decade, Nayon Photographers' Club has remained as one of the leading camera clubs under the Federation of Philippine Photographers' Foundation Inc. (FPPFI).

A grand reunion of workshop graduates and former club members is also organized by the FPPFI on May 24 and 25 at Baluarte de San Francisco in Fort Santiago.

For more details, please text John Fernandez, president, at (0918) 910-4396.

Marian catechesis

To make this Year of the Rosary more meaningful and to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's pontificate, Defending Family Values Foundation Inc., in collaboration with Smart Telecommunications Inc., and Wolfpac Telecommunications Inc., has launched a knowledge-based short messaging system (SMS) Marian Catechesis directed to Smart subscribers.

Multiple-choice questions on Mary, her life, privileges, apparitions and favorite prayer and the holy Rosary will be asked via text messaging to Smart subscribers. To play, they can key in P and simply send to 299 to pull the question. They may also type to donate.

OUR Lady of Caysasay

It is basically a self-evaluation of one's knowledge on Mary, which can simultaneously help various socio-educational projects of Defending Family Values Foundation Inc. e.g. "Take a bite/byte Feed and Teach a Child Program" part of its Adopt a Public School Program wherein an integrated approach toward poverty alleviation is being undertaken, i.e. feeding, literacy, values education programs, scholarships for the underprivileged, livelihood program, home-school collaboration: an answer to domestic violence, etc.

Moreover, this initiative is aimed to show our gratitude for Pope John Paul II's sincere efforts in being a "Witness to Hope," now that we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of his pontificate. Everyone is invited to offer a spiritual bouquet for this event. A radio program, which is linked with this initiative, will soon be launched.

Interested participants may call DFV Foundation Inc. at 893-2964 or 813-9020.

Our Lady of All Nations

There will be a prayer rally and Mass at Manila Cathedral in honor of Our Lady of All Nations on May 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The public is invited.

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short
hot
cool
stars
stripes
sporty
fashionable
tame
wild
boys
girls
black
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GROLLIER INTERNATIONAL and Scholastic Book Fairs' Ronnie Piñon and Emmanuel Santos, Cacho Publishing House's Ramon Sunico with SM Foundation's Connie Angeles and DepEd's Angelita Eskidul during the symbolical turnover of donations during the Donate a Book launch

Donate-A-Book
MAY 9 - JUNE 6, 2003

THE WORLD vision kids

Donate a Book honors patrons

SM FOUNDATION'S Donate a Book campaign honored its donors during the recent launch of the drive's 5th year at SM Megamall.

The campaign has so far collected 1,853,170 books, which were distributed to 5,417 public-school libraries all over the Philippines.

Donate a Book is co-sponsored by the Department of Education and the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP). Media partners include IBC 13, Radio Mindanao Network, IFM Manila and E! Philippines.

This year's launch was hosted by IFM-Manila and began with a presentation by World Vision Kids. Speakers included Annie Garcia, SM Supermall's vice president for operations; SM Foundation executive director Connie Angeles, CEAP's Neil Parinas, and DepEd's Angelita Eskidul.

Diosdado Emio, principal of one of the beneficiary schools, the Becuran High School in Pampanga, thanked the SM Foundation on behalf of 1,126 students and 31 teachers.

Plaques were awarded to donors including Ramon Sunico of Cacho Publishing House, Emmanuel Santos of Grollier International, Ronnie Piñon from the Scholastic Book Fair, Amphie Cinco of Pink Soda, and Rocky Liwanag and Gen Vitasa from Asia Pacific College.

IBC 13 president and CEO Renato Bello, RMN's VP for sales and marketing Butch Canoy, Eskidul, Parinas and SM Foundation's Angeles cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Donate a Book is ongoing until June 6 in all SM Supermalls.

Each donor gets a cash coupon from the SM Department Store's stationery department.

Collection booths are located at the lower ground floors of SM City Fairview and SM City Bicutan; G/F SM Supercenter Sucat and SM City Pampanga; upper ground floors of SM City North-Edsa, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Manila; 2/F SM Centerpoint; and 3/F SM Megamall.

In the Visayas-Mindanao area, they are located at the lower ground floors of SM City Cebu and SM City Iloilo; and G/F SM City Davao and SM City Cagayan de Oro.

RADIO MINDANAO Network VP for Sales and Marketing Butch Canoy

PAMPANGA'S Becuran high school principal Diosdado Amio

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Sunday LIFESTYLE family

Now Johnny can *really* learn

By Rodolfo M. Loquinario
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

COME schooltime this June, Johnny (not his real name), 11, will finally be in Grade 4 in a big, regular school, from finishing Grade 3 in an alternative school.

That's one big event for Johnny, who repeated Grade 1 and flunked Grade 3 in regular school. Just how did he pass Grade 2?

He memorized. He spouted words and numbers that he hardly understood. And when teachers asked questions, up shot Johnny's hands, no doubt charming the teachers.

That, and the pity of some who didn't want Johnny to be left again in class, helped him move up to the next grade. But in Grade 3, a teacher who perhaps understood her duty as way above being charmed by a student like Johnny, flunked him unceremoniously.

So Johnny's parents enrolled him at St. Teodora School and Tutoring Center, a government-recognized alternative learning institution for preschoolers and graders located at 1425 Sanchez Extension, next to the corner of Jose Abad Santos Avenue and Mayhaligue Street, in Tondo, Manila.

Midway station

To Johnny, and students like him who have learning difficulties, St. Teodora is a midway station in the race to finish school.

At St. Teodora, they refresh on lessons taken in regular schools, really learning and understanding them this time, and power themselves up with techniques and shortcuts in comprehension. All these are designed to help them rejoin the big, regular schools, and this time, survive.

At St. Teodora, teachers regale students with tales built around words and their spelling, for easy recall. Diagrams, tables or charts are used to give form to ideas leading to a paragraph.

Abstractions in math are explained using objects the student can touch, relate to and find true. Problems with numbers are presented with drawings and mental images to make solutions the next stop.

When it comes to prime and composite numbers, the student is given five indicators to help him or her get over memorizing a chockfull of numbers. The teacher brainstorms with the students, asks guide questions or presents patterns, to enable the group to easily come up with a paragraph or sentence.

If they fail to understand a verbal instruction, the students will see a demonstration of the idea. For lessons to be learned thoroughly, more drills and exercises such as these are given.

These teaching techniques and many more may not all be unique, pioneering or desk-shaking. But such is the case with many simple and possible things in life. All that is needed is the doing.

These techniques work, as they worked for Johnny and similar kids to whom learning does not come easy.

Customized learning

Education at St. Teodora is designed to the pace and capacity of each student. Which makes a lot of sense. If we have devices and outfits customized to our fancies or limits, why not learning?

With this philosophy of instruction, nothing at St. Teodora is rammed down one's throat. No student is pigeonholed according to his age. No one is a mere statistic. It is what the big schools are not, but should be.

> At St. Teodora School and Tutoring Center, education is designed to the pace and capacity of each student

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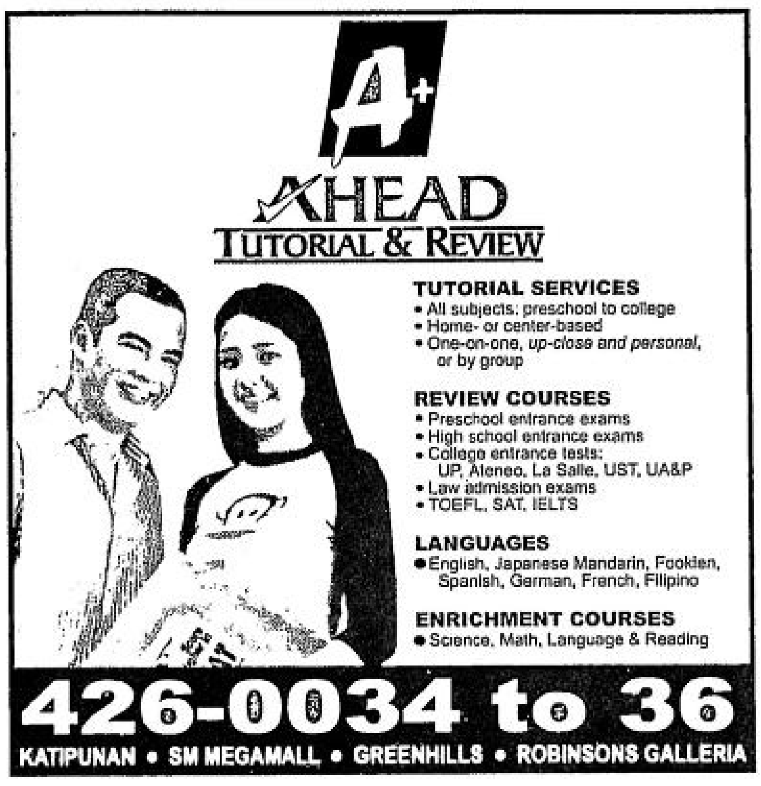

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Per DTI - NCR Permit # 1846 Series of 2003

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-Laguna Permit 5-04-108 Series of 2003

Why these Juans and Juanas can read

AT least 40 Caltex volunteers from Metro Manila and Batangas used their personal time to help improve the reading skills of selected pupils.

For four Saturday mornings, the volunteers taught slow readers in Bagong Barangay Elementary School in Pandacan and San Pascual Elementary School in Batangas. The work was part of the Caltex Mentor Program (CMP).

As a result of the volunteers' efforts, about 90 percent of the more than 100 elementary students they mentored passed the reading test conducted by school authorities at the end of the program.

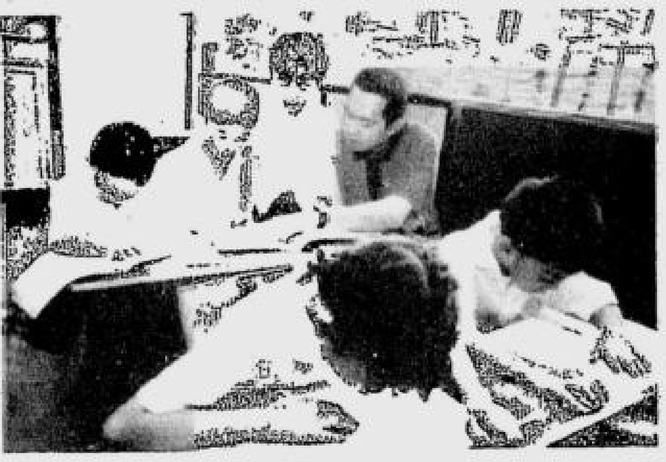
Under the CMP, the Caltex volunteers tutored pupils in reading both in Filipino and English. Teachers in the participating schools conducted follow-up group sessions of the tutored students on regular school days.

Regina Micu, principal of Bagong Barangay, found the program results encouraging. "Before, we were worried that the shortage of teachers would greatly affect our drive to help children improve their reading skills. But with the Caltex Mentor Program, we were able to bring down the number of children needing help, and even encourage them to read on their own."

Becky Alivio, vice president and general manager of the Caltex Batangas Refinery, said all the company wanted in implementing CMP in San Pascual was to help the children realize their dream to keep up with their peers and show everyone that they could read well.

The CMP started at J. Zamora Elementary School in Pandacan last November. More than 150 students have so far benefited from the program with the participation of more than 70 Caltex volunteers.

Plans are being readied for the implementation of CMP in other schools in June. The Caltex Mentor Program received in February a Gold Quill Award for Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators.



MENTOR Rodel Domdom shares his time and reading skills with children from Bagong Barangay Elementary School.

IRMA Gonda, one of the volunteers under the Caltex Mentor Program, gets enthusiastic reactions from her wards.

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Promo Available in all Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits outlets from May 1-31 2003
Per DTI- NCR Permit # 1848 Series of 2003
Good for 6

School seeks to stimulate productive thinking

CLOWNING around at the balance beam with Teacher Raffy, one of the school's in-house therapists.

FAST-TRACK your kids' potentials. At Britesparks International School, known for its Fastrackids and Play Gym programs, children are challenged to think productively while their communication and leadership skills are being developed.

Emphasis is on accelerating the children's overall learning capabilities. The Britesparks program keeps students moving from one subject to another in a way that is enjoyable and interesting.

With the proper environment, guidance and love, kids are started on the track to success. This school year, Britesparks promises improved facilities, more extensive internationally accredited programs, and a fuller range of academic and family services. A special insurance coverage courtesy of Kiddo Card is introduced.

The faculty consists of experienced educators, highly skilled therapists, psychologists and Sped (special education) teachers.

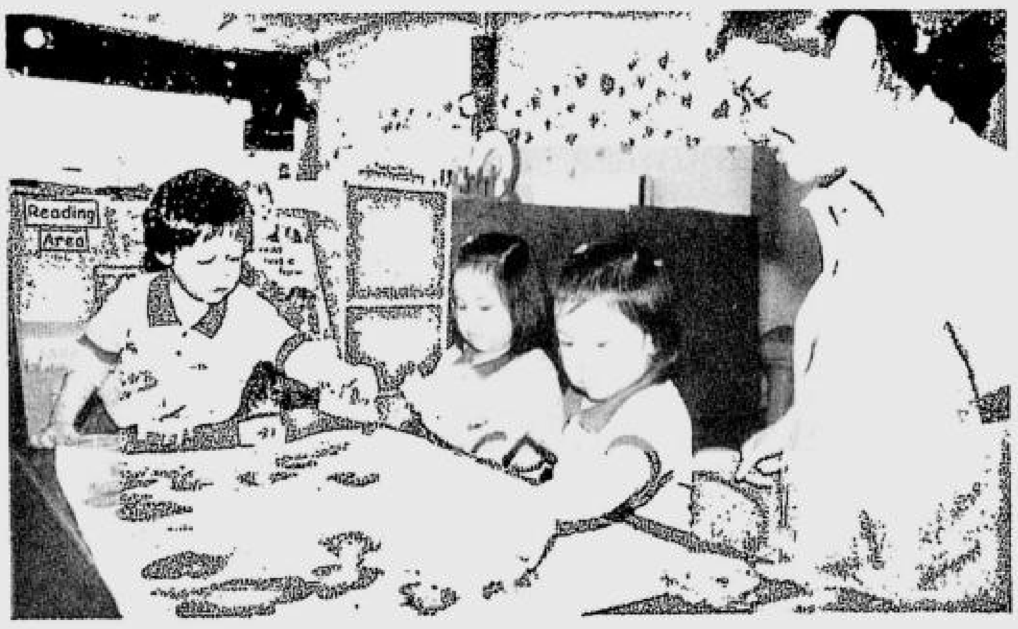
Britesparks International School, as a way of thanksgiving for the many blessings it has received, will donate a percentage of the upcoming school year's enrollment fees to Migi's Corner, a foundation engaged in art and play therapy for cancer-stricken children (visit www.migiscorner.com).

Britesparks will soon open its new location at 100 Katipunan Ave., White Plains, Quezon City.

Call 912-0669 or visit www. britesparksintl.com.

RECREATION helps small wonders develop their creativity and imagination.

BRITESPARKS' kinder tots get ready for their Teacher's Day presentation.

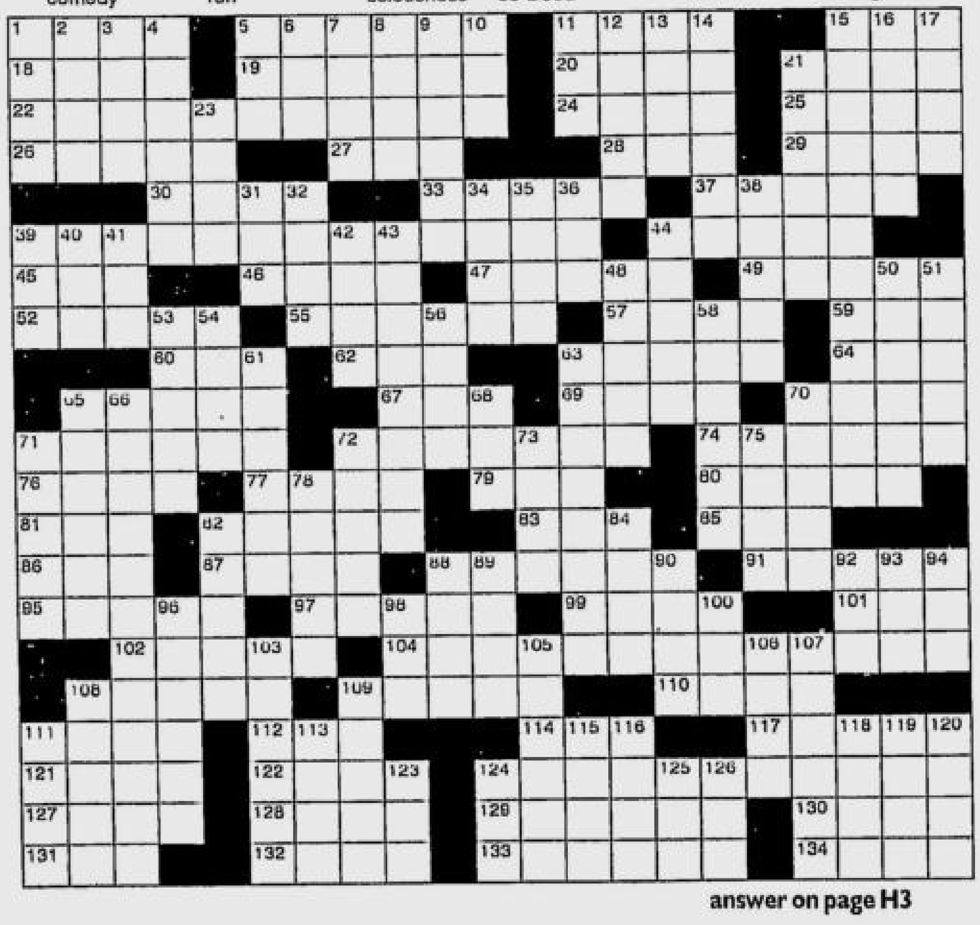


SELF-HELP skills mold kids to be creative and independent.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Li'l Abner" cartoonist
5 Mann or Greeley
11 Lloyd Webber musical
15 Owns
18 Fragrance
19 Military helicopter
20 Tigris-Euphrates land
21 Convent cubicle
22 African Revolutionary War heroine?
24 Hunt's "— Ben Adhem"
25 Wells' creatures
26 Stun
27 Author Follett
28 Actress Massen
29 Primer pooch
30 Nobelist Wiesel
33 Operetta composer
37 — out (eradicate)
39 African sitcom?
44 Actress Talia
45 Relished a roast
46 King of comedy
47 Grind
49 — cotta
52 "America's Most Wanted" host
55 Jubilant
57 Belfry sound
59 Marry
60 Roller-coaster unit
62 LAX letters
63 Desire
64 Botanist Gray
65 Frighten
67 — -Magnon
69 Roll-call reply
70 Cozy
71 Swiss sight
72 African appetizer?
74 Crewel tool
76 European capital
77 Memo start
79 "Agnus —"
80 Wonderful
81 Conductor Queler
82 Like a raisin
83 — deco
85 Lodge brother
86 Part of MPH
87 Stalk
88 Infantry action
91 Cosmetician Lauder
95 Take the honey and run
97 Walker's "The — Purple"
99 Pat on the buns?
101 Sign a contract
102 Declaim
104 Start of an African anthem?
108 Nasty
109 Puccini's "— Lescaut"
110 Secure the ship
111 Scoundrels
112 Cow's cry
114 LP successors
117 Most minute
121 Potpourri
122 British buggy
124 African movie theme song?
127 Wise — owl
128 Turner or Wood
129 Aromatic plant
130 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
131 Looney Tunes critter
132 In addition
133 Salem's state
134 Manipulates

DOWN
1 Deep unconsciousness
2 Smith or Sandler
3 Actress Negri
4 Much valued
5 "Bali —"
6 Select, with "for"
7 Pinion's partner
8 Flu symptom
9 Chinese Olympic skater
10 Chariot follower
11 Security grp.
12 Ann —, MI
13 New Mexico resort
14 Court sport
15 Beach Boys' African hit?
16 Knock for — (astonish)
17 Skirt feature
21 One of the Borgias
23 Soccer superstar
31 Tempest — teapot
32 Parisian pronoun
34 TV's "The — of Night"
35 Card collection
36 Actress Alicia
38 Deed
39 Shorten a slat
40 Actress Hagen
41 Tierra — Fuego
42 Connecticut campus
43 Grabbed
44 Start wool gathering
48 Mall madness
50 Upshot
51 Proverb
53 It'll give you a weigh
54 Jackrabbit, for one
56 O'Hara homestead
58 Settle a score
61 Go to bed
63 Certain singer
65 Make a pile
66 African actress?
68 Peculiar
70 Pursues
71 — suzette
72 Philosophy
73 Paper quantity
75 Perry's creator
78 Sib's kid
82 Trepidation
84 It may be small
88 Mindy of "The Facts of Life"
89 Approximately
90 Abound (with)
92 Archaic contraction
93 Compass pt.
94 Scrape by, with "out"
96 Bastille, e.g.
98 Mauna —
100 Yoko —
103 Curly Shirley
105 Stick-in-the-mud?
106 Cry of distress
107 "— Lonesome Tonight?" ('60 hit)
108 Taco topping
109 Haunted-house sounds
111 Paint layer
113 Spoken
115 Barry or Brubeck
116 Stocking mishap
118 Baseball's Slaughter
119 Unit of loudness
120 "— brillig . . ."
123 West of Hollywood
124 Day- —
125 Past
126 Bog



answer on page H3

Now Johnny can really learn

From page L1

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Call St. Teodora at 252-8972 or 251-7950.

Why these Juans and Juanas can read

AT least 40 Caltex volunteers from Metro Manila and Batangas used their personal time to help improve the reading skills of selected pupils.

For four Saturday mornings, the volunteers taught slow readers in Bagong Barangay Elementary School in Pandacan and San Pascual Elementary School in Batangas. The work was part of the Caltex Mentor Program (CMP).

As a result of the volunteers' efforts, about 90 percent of the more than 100 elementary students they mentored passed the reading test conducted by school authorities at the end of the program.

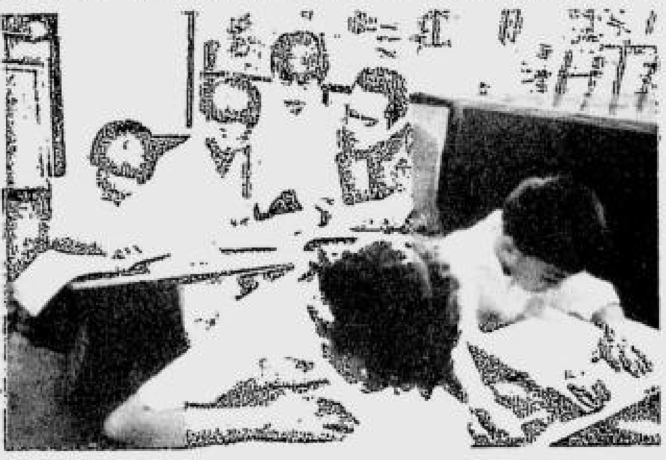
Under the CMP, the Caltex volunteers tutored pupils in reading both in Filipino and English. Teachers in the participating schools conducted follow-up group sessions of the tutored students on regular school days.

Regina Micu, principal of Bagong Barangay, found the program results encouraging. "Before, we were worried that the shortage of teachers would greatly affect our drive to help children improve their reading skills. But with the Caltex Mentor Program, we were able to bring down the number of children needing help, and even encourage them to read on their own."

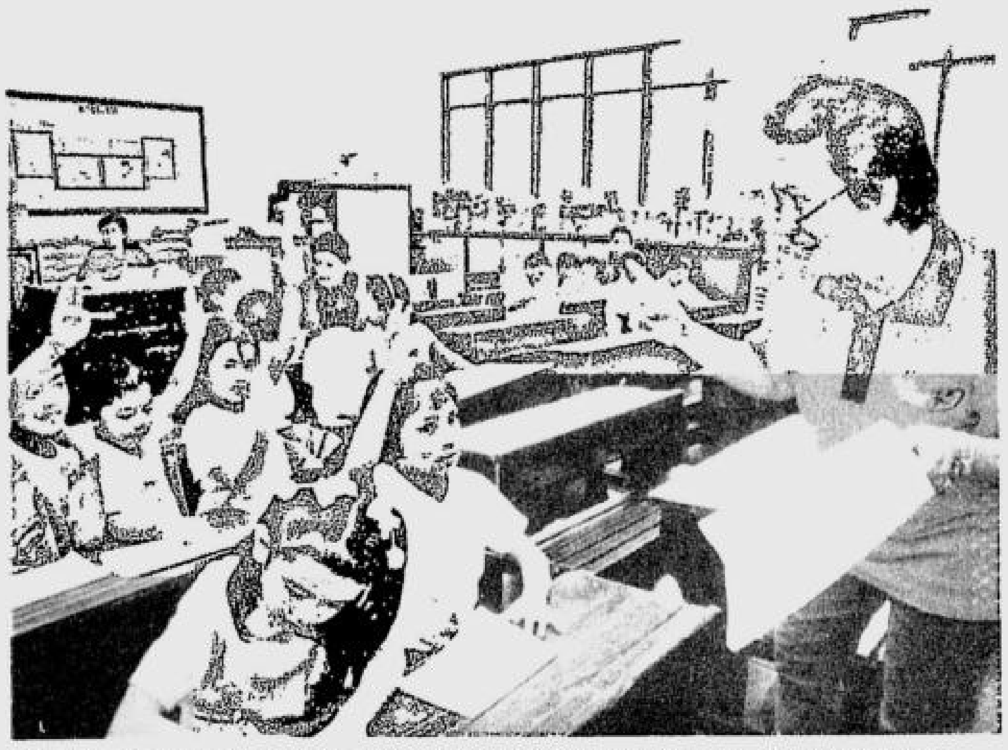
Becky Alivio, vice president and general manager of the Caltex Batangas Refinery, said all the company wanted in implementing CMP in San Pascual was to help the children realize their dream to keep up with their peers and show everyone that they could read well.

The CMP started at J. Zamora Elementary School in Pandacan last November. More than 150 students have so far benefited from the program with the participation of more than 70 Caltex volunteers.

Plans are being readied for the implementation of CMP in other schools in June. The Caltex Mentor Program received in February a Gold Quill Award for Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators.



MENTOR Rodel Domdom shares his time and reading skills with children from Bagong Barangay Elementary School.



IRMA Gonda, one of the volunteers under the Caltex Mentor Program, gets enthusiastic reactions from her wards.

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School seeks to stimulate productive thinking

CLOWNING around at the balance beam with Teacher Raffy, one of the school's in-house therapists.

RECREATION helps small wonders develop their creativity and imagination.

FAST-TRACK your kids' potentials. At Britesparks International School, known for its Fastrackids and Play Gym programs, children are challenged to think productively while their communication and leadership skills are being developed.

Emphasis is on accelerating the children's overall learning capabilities. The Britesparks program keeps students moving from one subject to another in a way that is enjoyable and interesting.

With the proper environment, guidance and love, kids are started on the track to success. This school year, Britesparks promises improved facilities, more extensive internationally accredited programs, and a fuller range of academic and family services. A special insurance coverage courtesy of Kiddo Card is introduced.

The faculty consists of experienced educators, highly skilled therapists, psychologists and Sped (special education) teachers.

Britesparks International School, as a way of thanksgiving for the many blessings it has received, will donate a percentage of the upcoming school year's enrollment fees to Migi's Corner, a foundation engaged in art and play therapy for cancer-stricken children (visit www.migiscorner.com).

Britesparks will soon open its new location at 100 Katipunan Ave., White Plains, Quezon City.

Call 912-0669 or visit www. britesparksintl.com.

BRITESPARKS' kinder tots get ready for their Teacher's Day presentation.

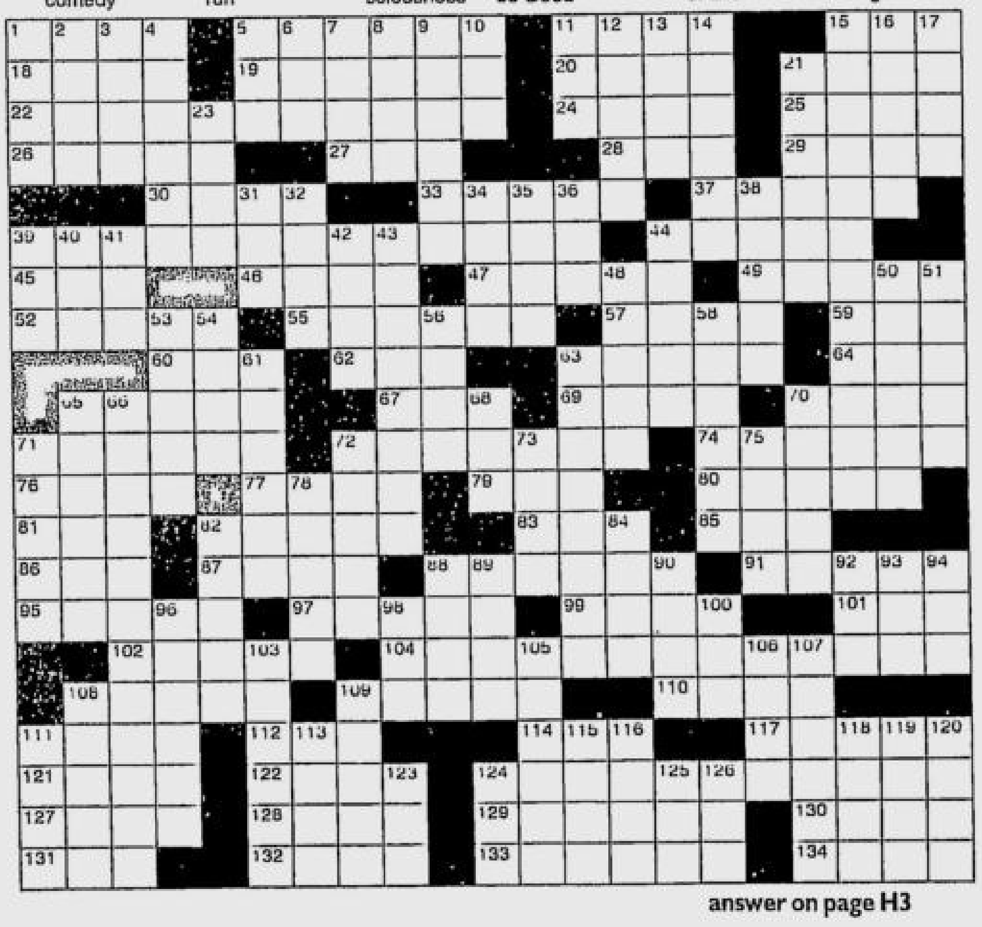
Reading Area

SELF-HELP skills mold kids to be creative and independent.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Li'l Abner" cartoonist
5 Mann or Greeley
11 Lloyd Webber musical
15 Owns
18 Fragrance
19 Military helicopter
20 Tigris-Euphrates land
21 Convent cubicle
22 African Revolutionary War heroine?
24 Hunt's "— Ben Adhem"
25 Wells' creatures
26 Stun
27 Author Follett
28 Actress Massen
29 Primer pooch
30 Nobelist Wiesel
33 Operetta composer
37 — out (eradicate)
39 African sitcom?
44 Actress Talia
45 Relished a roast
46 King of comedy
47 Grind
49 — cotta
52 "America's Most Wanted" host
55 Jubilant
57 Belfry sound
59 Marry
60 Roller-coaster unit
62 LAX letters
63 Desire
64 Botanist Gray
65 Frighten
67 — -Magnon
69 Roll-call reply
70 Cozy
71 Swiss sight
72 African appetizer?
74 Crewel tool
76 European capital
77 Memo start
79 "Agnus —"
80 Wonderful
81 Conductor Queler
82 Like a raisin
83 — deco
85 Lodge brother
86 Part of MPH
87 Stalk
88 Infantry action
91 Cosmetician Lauder
95 Take the honey and run
97 Walker's "The — Purple"
99 Pat on the buns?
101 Sign a contract
102 Declaim
104 Start of an African anthem?
108 Nasty
109 Puccini's "— Lescaut"
110 Secure the ship
111 Scoundrels
112 Cow's cry
114 LP successors
117 Most minute
121 Potpourri
122 British buggy
124 African movie theme song?
127 Wise — owl
128 Turner or Wood
129 Aromatic plant
130 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
131 Looney Tunes critter
132 In addition
133 Salem's state
134 Manipulates

DOWN
1 Deep unconsciousness
2 Smith or Sandler
3 Actress Negri
4 Much valued
5 "Bali —"
6 Select, with "for"
7 Pinion's partner
8 Flu symptom
9 Chinese Olympic skater
10 Chariot follower
11 Security grp.
12 Ann —, MI
13 New Mexico resort
14 Court sport
15 Beach Boys' African hit?
16 Knock for — (astonish)
17 Skirt feature
21 One of the Borgias
23 Soccer superstar
31 Tempest — teapot
32 Parisian pronoun
34 TV's "The — of Night"
35 Card collection
36 Actress Alicia
38 Deed
39 Shorten a slat
40 Actress Hagen
41 Tierra — Fuego
42 Connecticut campus
43 Grabbed
44 Start wool gathering
48 Mall madness
50 Upshot
51 Proverb
53 It'll give you a weigh
54 Jackrabbit, for one
56 O'Hara homestead
58 Settle a score
61 Go to bed
63 Certain singer
65 Make a pile
66 African actress?
68 Peculiar
70 Pursues
71 — suzette
72 Philosophy
73 Paper quantity
75 Perry's creator
78 Sib's kid
82 Trepidation
84 It may be small
88 Mindy of "The Facts of Life"
89 Approximately
90 Abound (with)
92 Archaic contraction
93 Compass pt.
94 Scrape by, with "out"
96 Bastille, e.g.
98 Mauna —
100 Yoko —
103 Curly Shirley
105 Stick-in-the-mud?
106 Cry of distress
107 "— Lonesome Tonight?" ('60 hit)
108 Taco topping
109 Haunted-house sounds
111 Paint layer
113 Spoken
115 Barry or Brubeck
116 Stocking mishap
118 Baseball's Slaughter
119 Unit of loudness
120 "— brillig . . ."
123 West of Hollywood
124 Day- —
125 Past
126 Bog



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Convenient way for cardholders to settle school fees

TO help you cope with back-to-school fees, Citibank credit cards offer a most convenient way to settle your child's tuition charges. Until July 31, Citibank cardholders can pay tuition fees at any Department of Education or Commission on Higher Education accredited school nationwide through the PayLite Installment Plan.

Simply call 423-3000 and request for a check payable to your child's school. For your convenience, the check will be delivered to your billing address and the check amount will be drawn against your credit limit. You can settle the bill through PayLite Installment Plan at terms ranging from as short as three to as long as 12 months at affordable add-on interest rates.

Paid the tuition but need cash to meet other expenses? You can also call 423-3000 and request to be reimbursed for the entire tuition amount. This will be charged to your Citibank card and also payable in installment terms of three to 12 months.

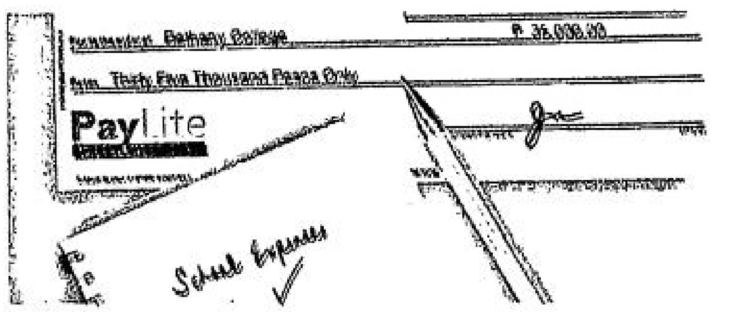
The Citibank PayLite hotline number is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. A Citibank sales representative will assist you in your request for a Citibank check—whether it is for your school or reimbursement. Once approved, a check will then be delivered to your billing address.

You can also pay over installment all your school supplies purchases at any National Book Store outlet nationwide. Enjoy reduced interest rates when shopping and charging to PayLite until July 31.

Already on its fifth year, the PayLite Back-to-School promotion is becoming more and more popular with Citibank cardholders who need financial assistance during the enrollment season.

"We realize that parents and even young professionals who pursue further studies face a difficult time during enrollment with all school-related expenses. For parents, they also have to pay for their children's school uniforms and school supplies, which puts an added strain on their limited budgets," related Citibank vice president Jenny Lacerna. "With PayLite and our check disbursement offer, we are giving them an option to manage their cash flow better so they don't have to pay for their expenses all at once."

Offering increased financial flexibility, PayLite is a unique privilege available to all cardholders of Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Citibank-Cathay Pacific Visa and Citibank Clear Card. It doesn't require any pre-enrollment so you can immediately use PayLite for purchases worth P3,000 and up.



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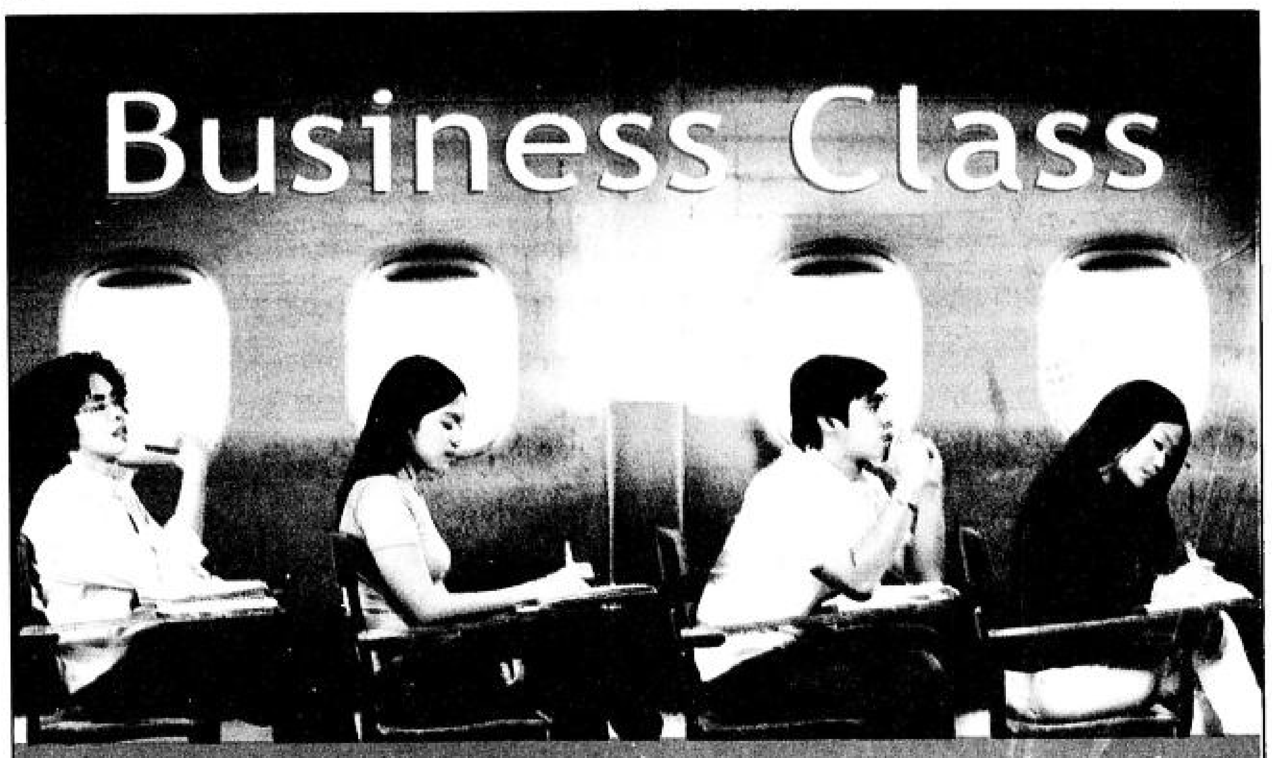
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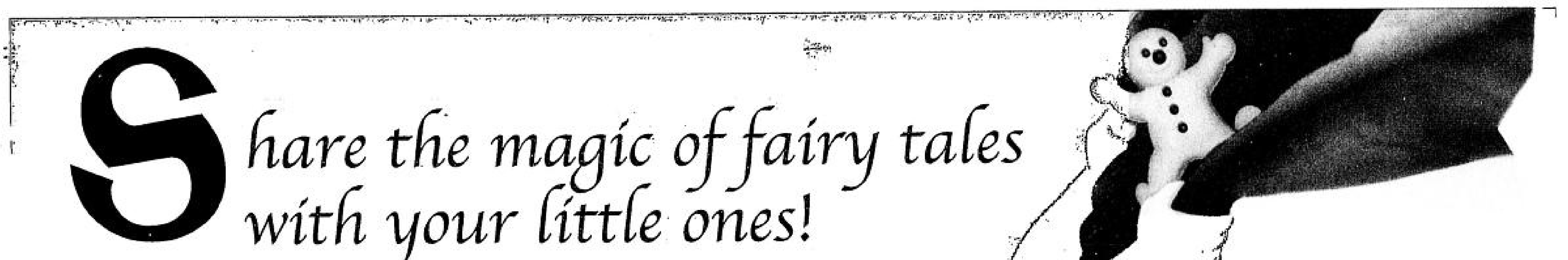
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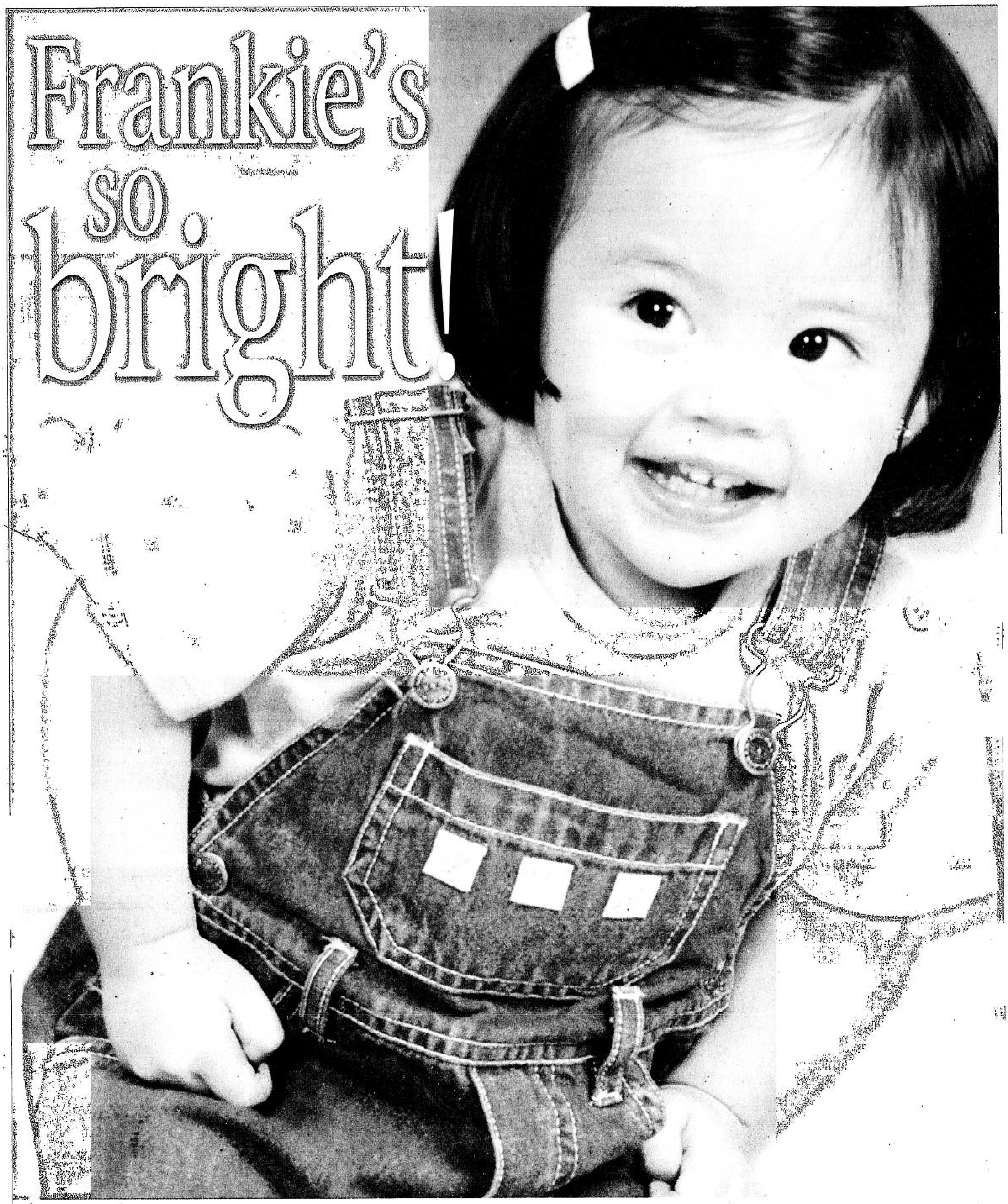
Frankie's so bright!

She drinks Hi-Nulac with Brain Lipids plus Whey Protein!

Now at age 2, little "megastar" Frankie Cuneta Pangilinan is growing up to be a very bright child. This is attributed in part to a healthy diet that includes Hi-Nulac with whey protein and Brain Lipids, a blend of superior fats that are needed in brain development.

Brain Lipids consist of a special blend of high-quality fats scientifically designed for brain development. It keeps the brain healthy and promotes learning and brain growth.

Whey protein improves the absorption of Brain Lipids and other nutrients as well as promotes better digestion. As a result, Frankie's brain gets the proper nutritional boost that it needs, thus enhancing Frankie's brain development.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Look what they have done to the 'abel'

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

> The Ilokanos' traditional fabric has gone haute couture but very few have noticed

ABEL ILOKO has gone beyond the dining room and bedroom and is now starting to be seen in more glamorous company.

The hand-woven cotton fabric, one of the products the Ilocos Region is famous for, is no longer just made into blankets, bedcovers, tea towels, napkins and placemats. Although still the stuff that blankets, bedcovers and other traditional products is made of, it is also now providing the material for glittering gowns and traditional Filipino costumes. And, during the annual Viva Vigan Binatbatan Festival of the Arts, even finery for the horses that draw the *calesas* in Vigan City, a World Heritage Site.

Bong Lazo, owner of the ready-to-wear chain Retazzo and a true-blue Ilokano (born in Abra and raised in Ilocos Sur), said with the availability of better and more designs, the *abel* now lent itself to more and more uses as a clothing material.

For the past five years, Lazo has been creating gowns for fashion shows designed to promote not only the indigenous fabric but the charms and attractions of Ilocos Sur itself. In the recent Vigan festival, Lazo dressed up most of the *sagalas*, including 12 models he brought to the city and celebrities Angel Aquino and Amanda Griffin, for the traditional May *santakrusan*, one of Binatbatan's highlights, sponsored by the provincial government.

Lazo used mainly the more modern, thicker and richer *abel* version. The designer said, because *abel* was handwoven, it had some built-in disadvantages. "The *abel* has a very narrow width so (several pieces) have to be used to make one garment. When using the checks

LOOK/M2

VIGAN CITY Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina lifts her skirt to reveal the crocheted *kamison* of her *patadyong*. The *kimona* is a striped abel.

BONG LAZO shows respect for the already rich material he is working with by using minimum beading and accessories.

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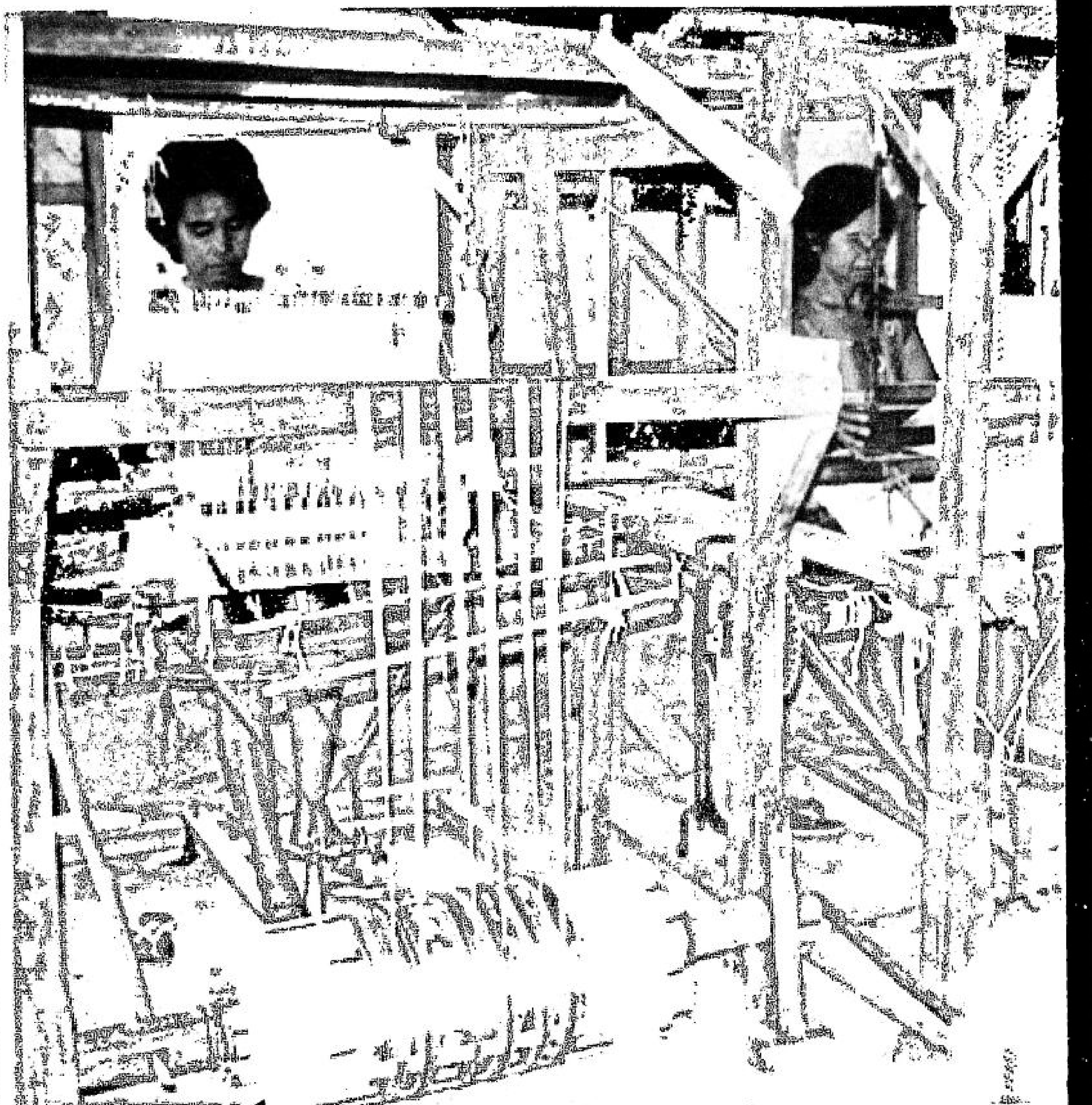
TELEVISION personality Amanda Griffin's pink gown with just a thin row of beads along the collar in deference to the already glittery *abel* is complemented by her escort's red and black check Chinese-collared shirt

LONG PURPLE GLOVES focus the eyes on Angel Aquino's simple powder blue gown with a drop waist and paneled skirt. Proud escort is Ilocos Sur Vice Governor Jerry Singson

ILOCOS SUR Governor D. V. Savellano escorts the Reina Elena of the provincial government-sponsored *Santakrusan*, one of the highlights of the Viva Vigan Binatbatan Festival of the Arts



Look what they have done to the ‘abel

From page M1

and plaids, you have to make sure the ends join seamlessly (or if different patterns have to be used) they are coordinated," he explained. It was especially tough when making a long or balloon skirt.

Abel is woven in handmade looms of wood and bamboo. In the past, individual households would generally have looms and the skill was handed down from generation to generation of women. The method of transferring the skill has remained but weavers now either work at home or report everyday—much like someone with an 8 to 5 office job—to enterprises like Cristy's Loomweaving. Cristy's has six women weavers reporting daily and nine more working at home. It provides the weavers the raw materials and pays according to the number of pieces they finish in a day.

Some weavers still prefer to be on their own, selling their products themselves.

Delicate

Describing the more glittery *abel* as *"delikado at maselan"*, Lazo said it also had to be dry-cleaned, another factor that would make it less attractive to many people.

But the fashion designer said thinner and more casual versions of the fabric—in Ilocos they are used for the traditional *camisa chino*, robes and an occasional blouse and skirt ensemble—would be an alternative for those who go for natural fibers. He added that his own store carried some *abel* pieces like corsets, skirts and pants as there was a growing number of customers who sought garments made of natural fabrics and with ethnic designs.

Lazo said not only was the design of the traditional fabric improving but new technology has also made it more colorfast. "They (weavers) still use indigenous dyes but technology has made the colors more long-lasting. The cloth does not fade as quickly as it used to," he said. Lazo added the fabric was also durable and, because it used cotton, was more comfortable compared to synthetic material.

Although the number of customers wanting *abel*-made garments was growing, Lazo admitted that most people still went for items using machine-produced and usually synthetic materials.

Perhaps the Ilokanos would have to launch the *abel* on Parisian runways to give it more respectability and a higher profile even with just the majority of the Filipinos. It worked for the Bangladeshi's modest Madras fabric, the brightly colored checks and plaids that used to come only in cotton but are now available in silk as well because of the growing demand as a result of its being seen on models in Parisian fashion shows.

E-mail the author at lbolido@hotmail.com

A RED sparsely beaded, square-necked sleeveless bodice shows off to its best advantage the black and red checkered skirt

FRESH *cattleya* blooms adorn the sleeve of Board Member Chita Cordero's *sinamay* gown. The flowers are changed depending on the occasion

PROVINCIAL BOARD Member Chita Cordero wears a vintage tan *sinamay* gown with an embroidered *tapis* with gold ribbons. Fresh cattleyas adorn her waist and sleeves

FORMER San Ildefonso Mayor and now provincial Board Member Chuchi Purisima shows off her frilly white *abel*

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HAND-WEAVING of the Ilokano fabric

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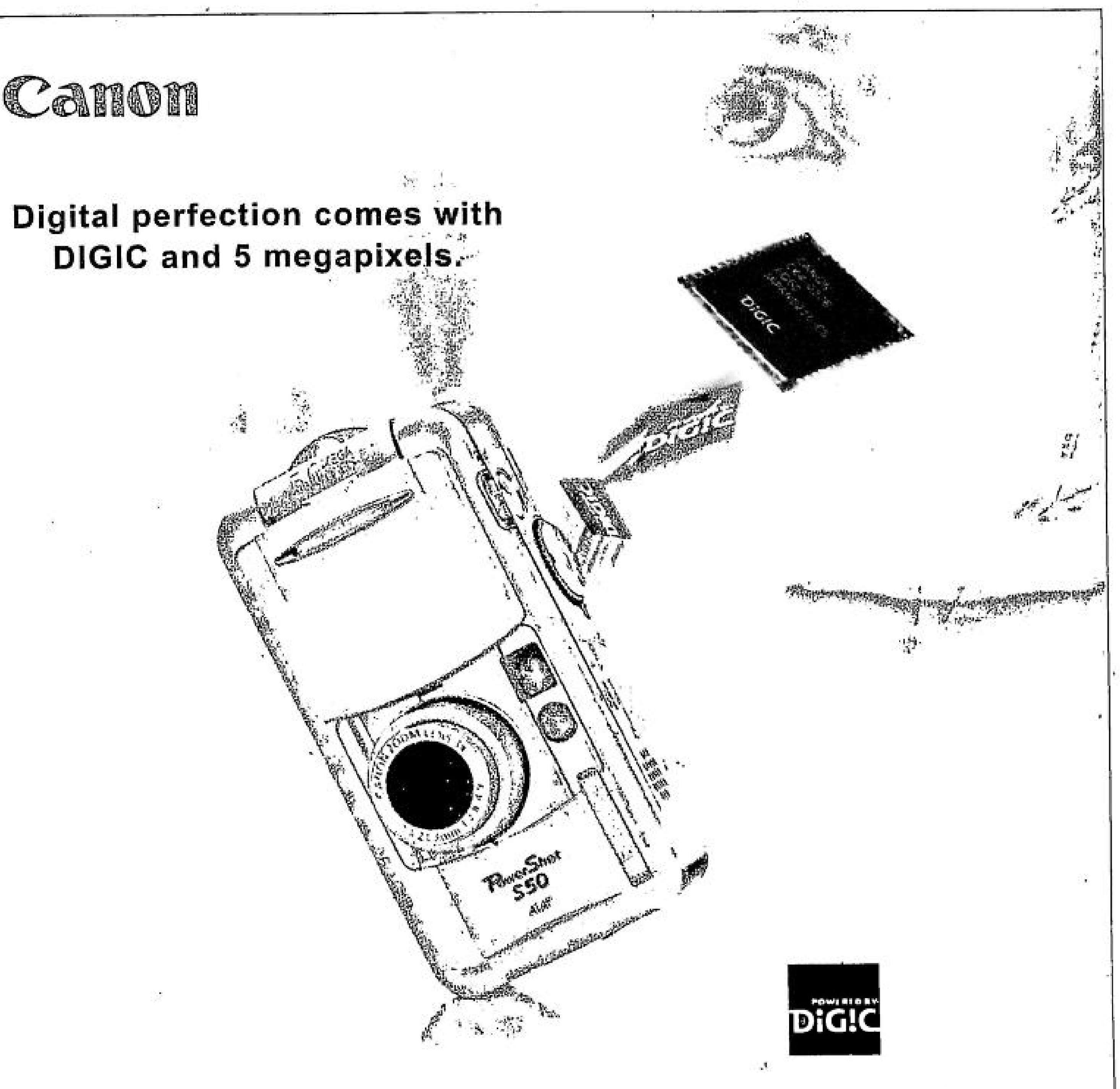

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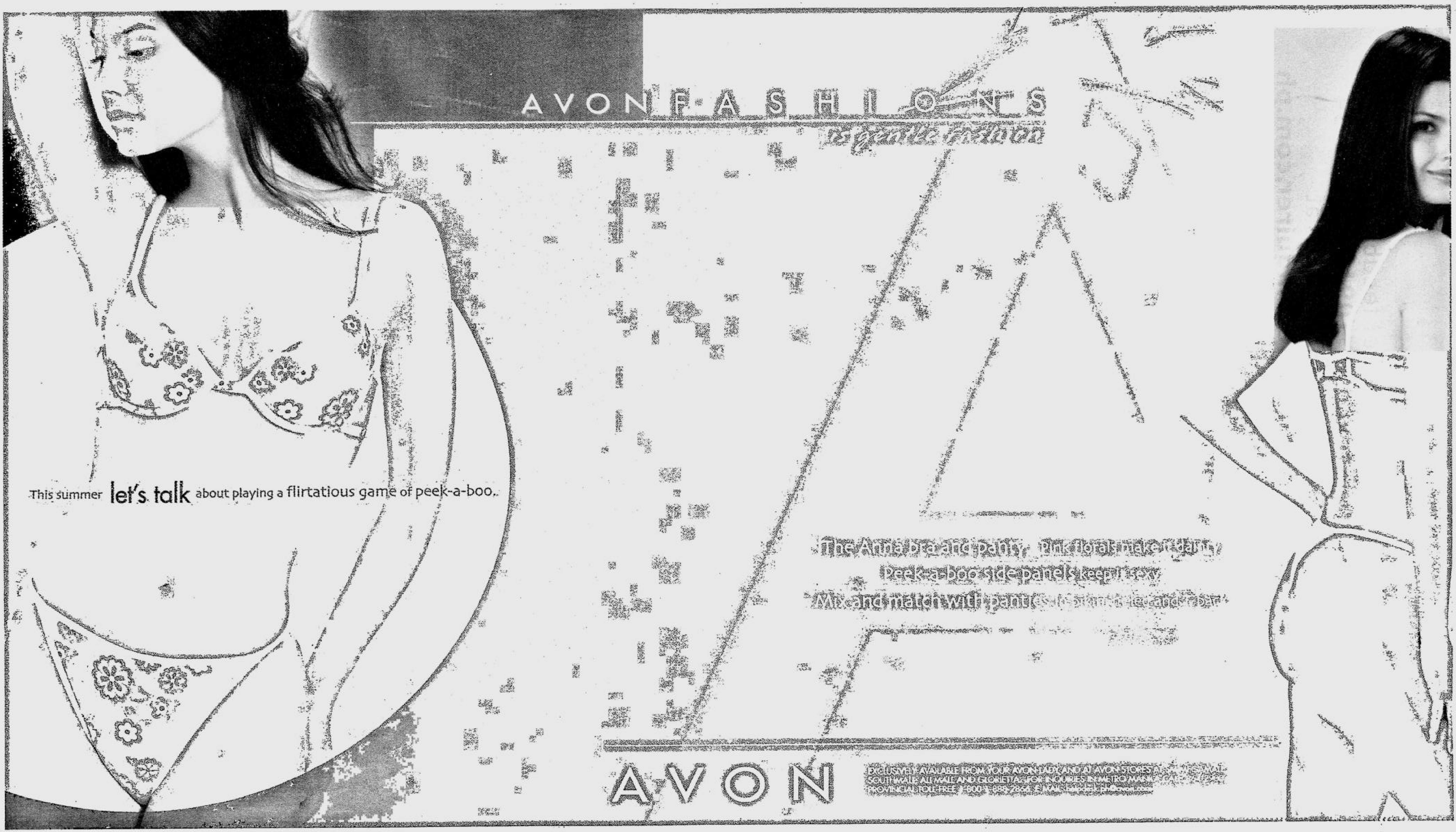

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements

JULIAN and Cielo Chung (née Zambrano)

CHUNG-ZAMBRANO NUPTIALS

Swinging bachelor takes the plunge

> 'Friends meant it only as a set-up. What I got instead was a partner for life'

By Julian Dee Chung Jr.
Contributor

ONCE in a lifetime you find the one you really love.

Marriage never really passed my mind even at the age of 31. Always living life to the fullest as a bachelor, my world revolved around friends, work and late night-outs. Never did it occur to me that I would gladly trade the life of a swinger for that of a full-time husband.

It all started when our common friends made a bet to set up two happy-go-lucky individuals on a date. That's how Cielo Zambrano and I met. The elder of two siblings, Cielo, with her parents Isaac and Antolina and younger sister Maria Ditas, is from Australia.

It was a set-up that was supposed to last only for a short time. Our common friends wanted to see who would break one's heart first.

Problem was, I knew she was the one the moment I met her. I guess we had so much in common that, in the next four years that we were together, there was never a dull moment for us.

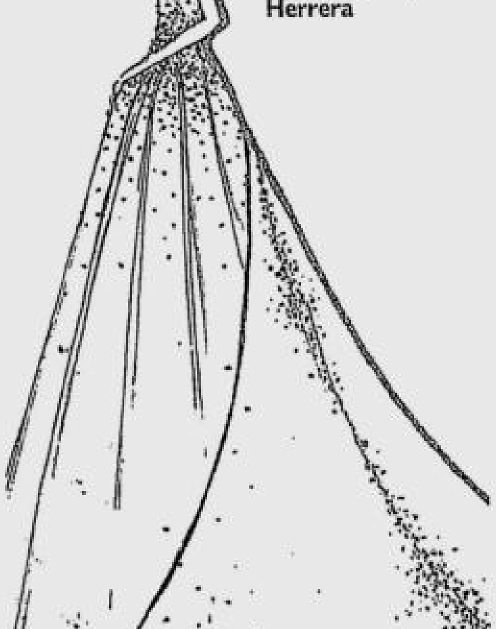
Cielo, having grown up in Sydney, came to Manila by accident. What was meant to be a month-long holiday turned out to be longer. You see, she got lucky with jobs in the media. She won in a TV show, became a host of that noontime show for a while, then went on to become a DJ/newscaster in one of Manila's radio stations. Yes, not only did I get a beautiful wife, but a talented one to boot.

Cielo also thoroughly enjoyed the partying and nightlife Manila offered. Back then, we kept telling ourselves that we were not ready to get married yet.

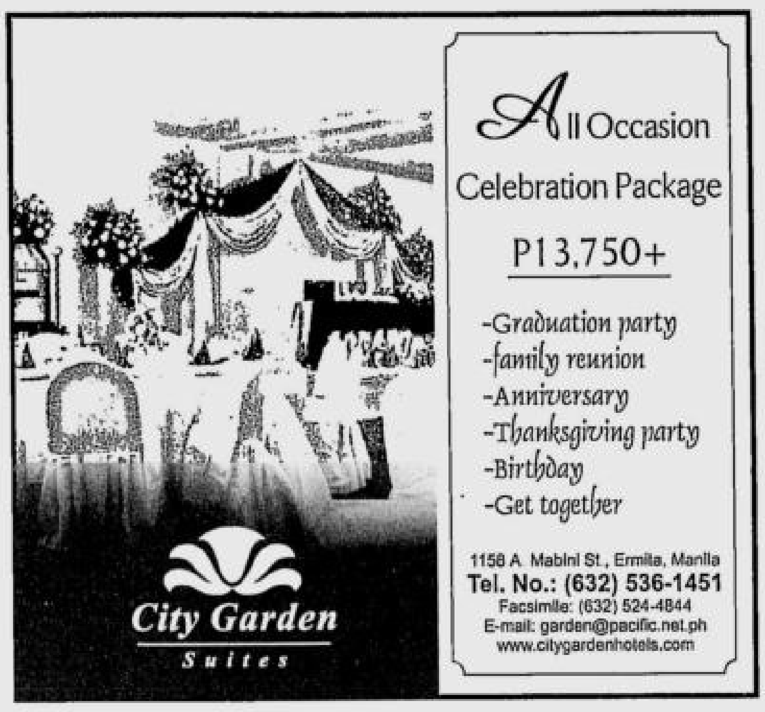
But little did she know that I was already beginning to plan the life we would have as a married couple. For a bachelor who enjoyed the single life too well, I was beginning to change. The presence of this girl had begun to turn my world around. I started talking about settling down, which was something very unusual and hardly expected to come out of my mouth.

I could also picture her being the future mother of my kids. The month we met was supposed to be her last month in Manila. She

SWINGING/ N2



THE BRIDE'S Matte gold wedding dress made of Indian silk with Swarovski crystals by Pepsi Herrera



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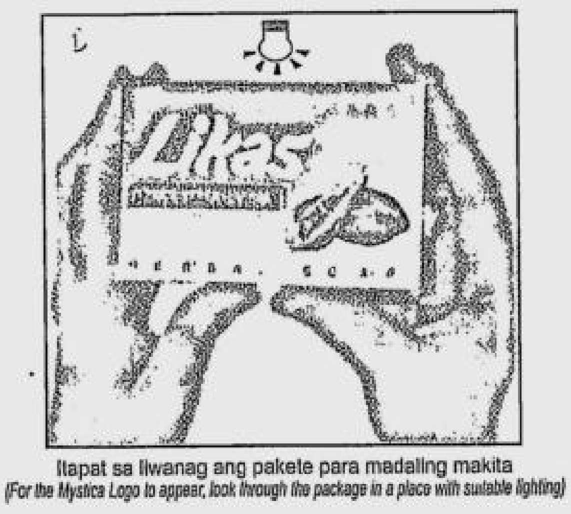

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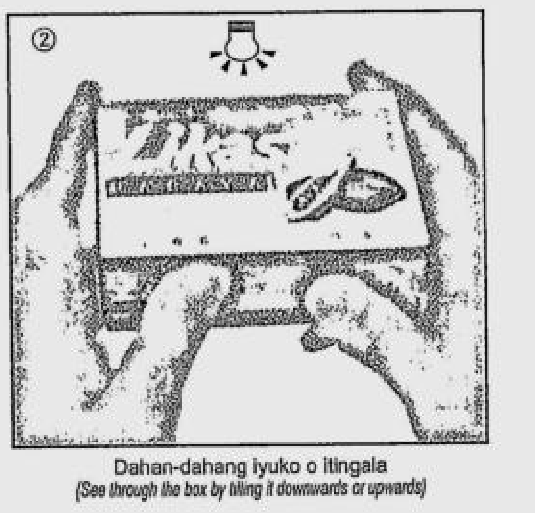

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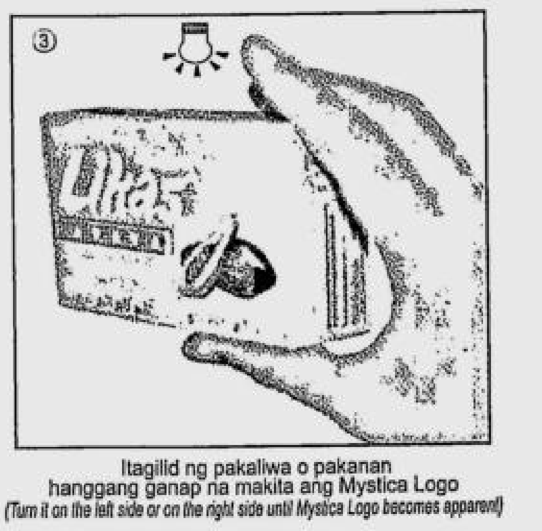

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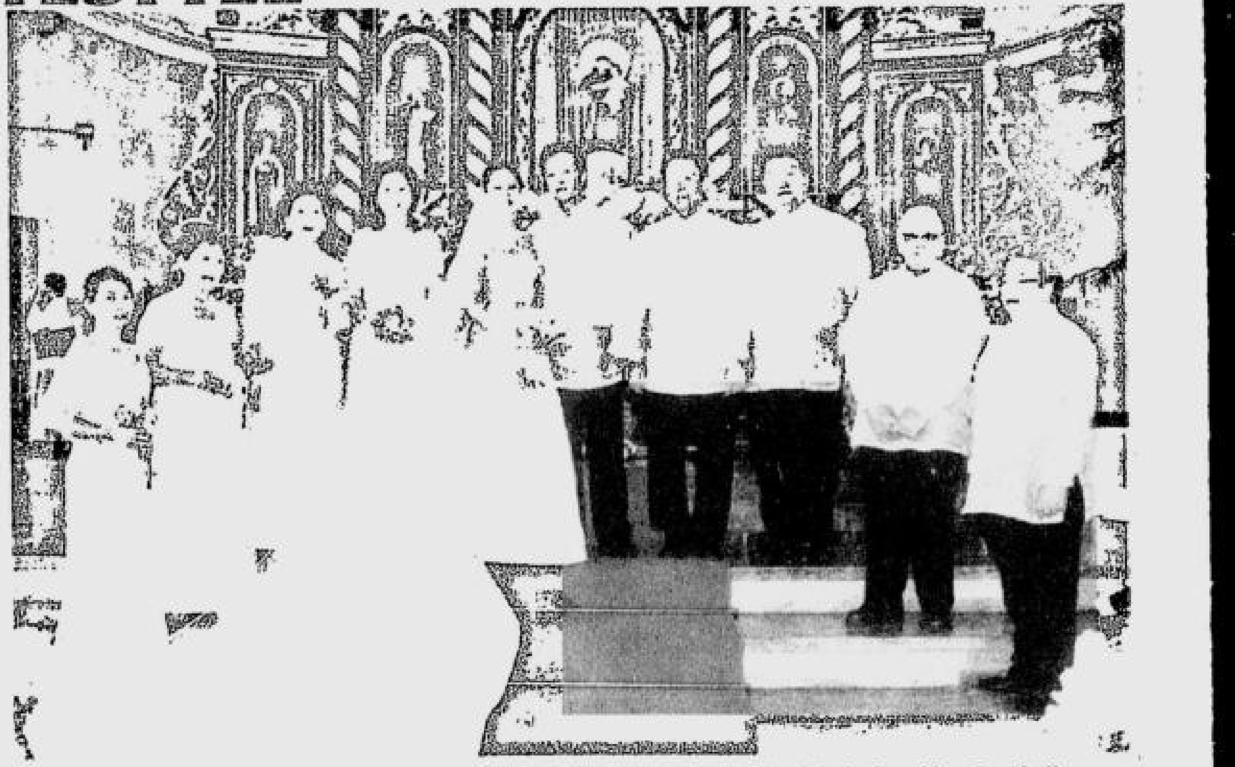
WITH their entourage



WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL sponsors: (from left) Elvira Ignacio, Corazon Katigbak, Dee Hua Gatchalian, Benita Tang, Jimmy Tang, Larry Chan, Antonio Katigbak and Manuel Luis Gonzales

Swinging bachelor takes the plunge

> 'Seeing her walk down the aisle was enough to make a man like me feel emotions that I had never felt before'

From page N1

already had plans of going back to Sydney to rejoin her family, but somehow, things just kept happening to stop her. She got offered jobs one after the other. And the relationship, which many said wouldn't last, would eventually stretch to four years.

I never did believe in soulmates before, but let me tell you now: There is such a thing. I finally proposed to her on April 8, 2002, at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Our wedding plans materialized with the help of my parents, Josephine and Julian Chung. Before I knew it, my soulmate Cielo was already walking down the aisle of Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, into my arms on Dec. 15, 2002. It was a moment I will never forget.

I thank our parents, most especially my mother, for making the wedding preparations grander than we could ever ask for. My bride looked radiant in her wedding gown made by Pepsi Herrera. Being the unconventional person that she is, she opted for a matte gold gown with Swarovski crystals instead of the white or cream gowns usually worn by other brides.

Friends and family from Australia and the US flew in to join us in the celebration. The fact that it was an evening wedding at 7 p.m. made it more romantic, with Christmas also just around the corner.

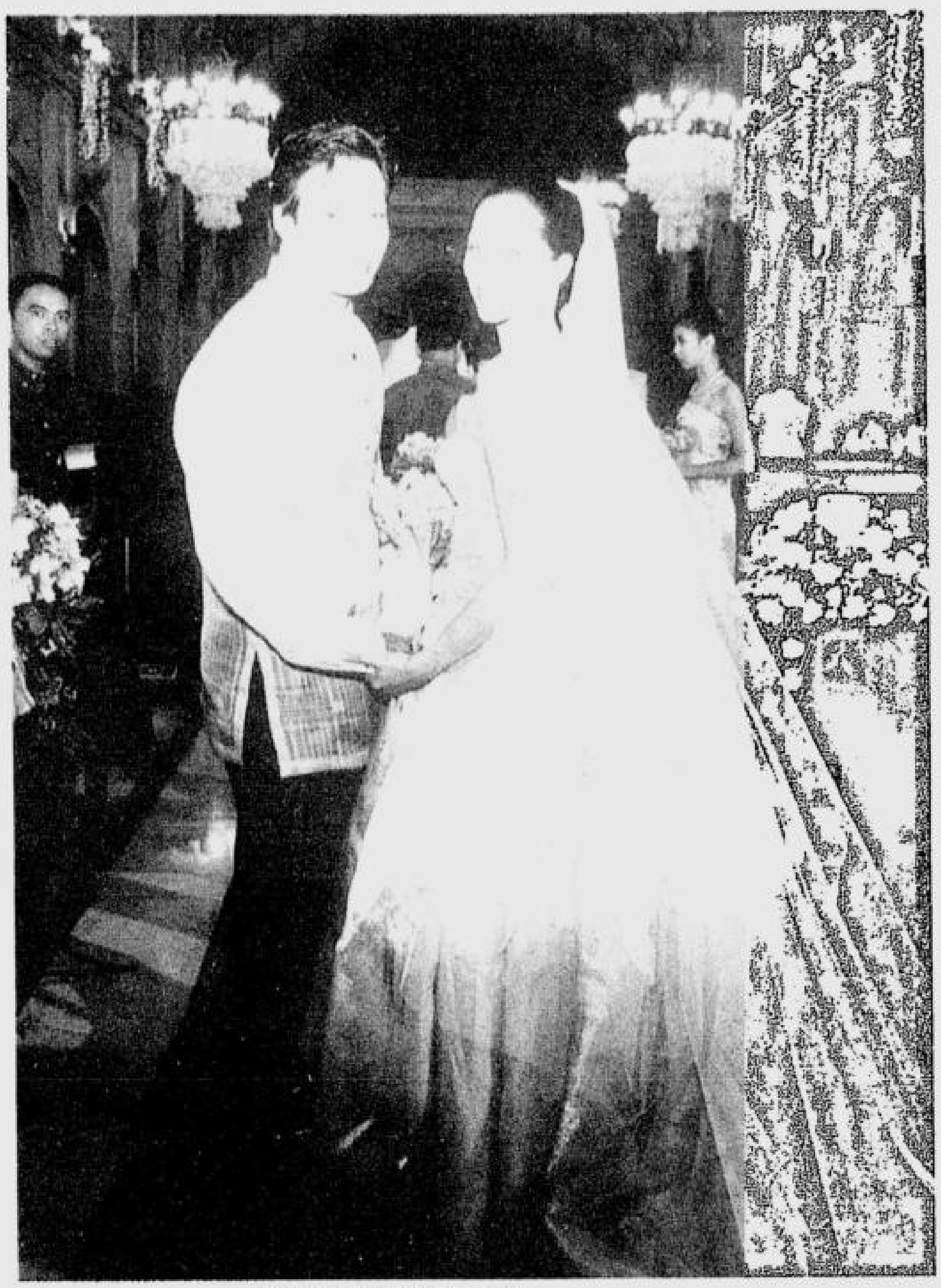
They say it is only the bride who feels the urge to cry during her wedding day. Now I know better. Seeing her walk down the aisle was enough to make a man like me feel emotions that I had never felt before. I even screwed up my lines while making my vows and exchanging rings with her.

For the reception, the entire ballroom of Mandarin Hotel became a garden of flowers and candlelight, as expertly done by Robert of 1816 along with his team. John Tronco and his assistants busily rushed back and forth to take memorable shots of the moment, while Vangie, Eugene and the staff of Wedding Treasures Wedding Coordinators made sure that everything went smoothly.

Playing host for the night was Mike Lim, who kept the audience in stitches with his witty repartee and his songs. Cielo's younger sister Maria, along with her boyfriend Adrian Castro, also from Sydney, enthralled the guests with their own song renditions. Finally, the guests were treated to a surprise MTV of us which John Tronco did so wonderfully and with class. The MTV played to Michael Bolton's "Once in a Lifetime," and there's a line in that song that said it all:

"Once in a lifetime when every star that lights the sky will shine with the one reason leading you home to the one love you find."

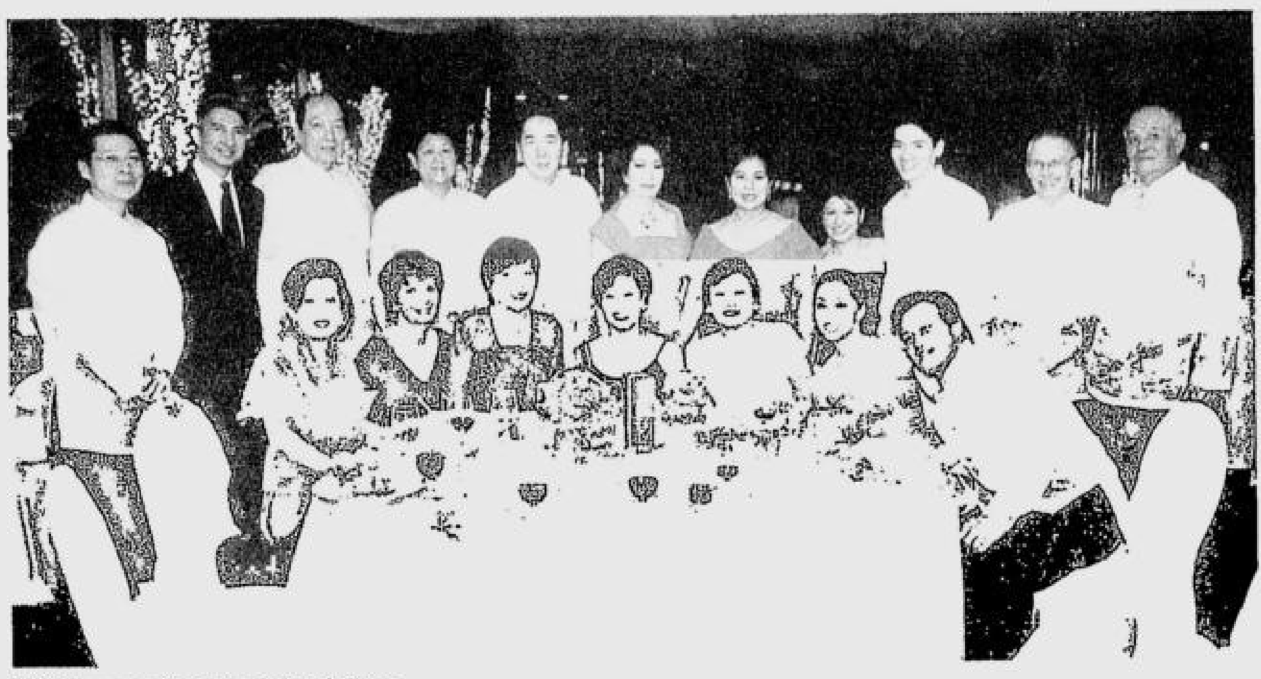
I was definitely home this time with the one I truly love.



ALL smiles after the wedding

CIELO with friends Boying Eustaquio and Rey Pumaloy

WITH THEIR PARENTS Antolina and Isaac Zambrano and Julian and Josephine Dee Chung



WITH some of the groom's relatives

THE NEWLYWEDS with their guests

WITH their guests

KARAAN-AMAN NUPTIALS

An unforgettable celebration

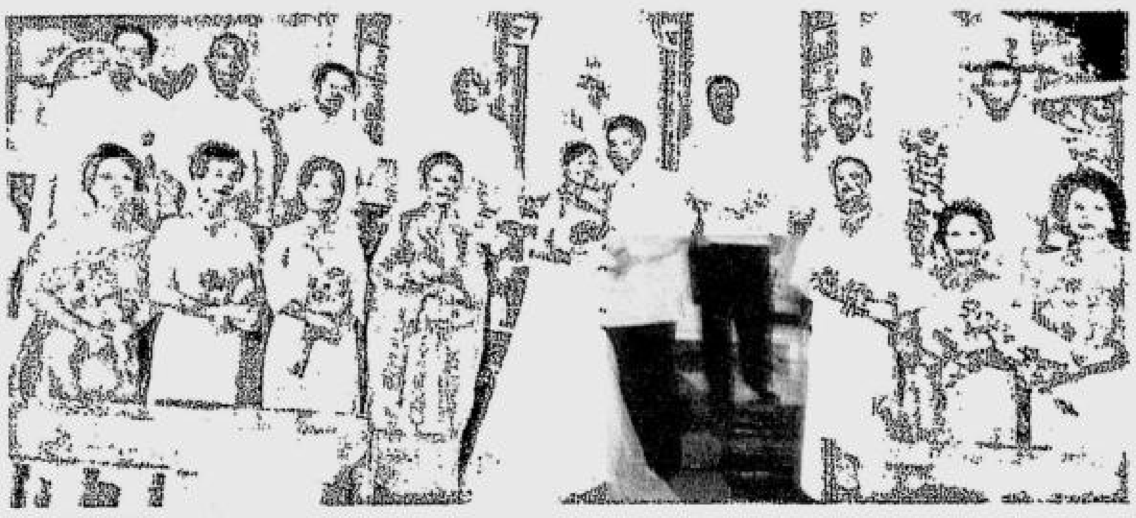
NEWLYWEDS Jovencio Karaan Jr. and Marilou Aman

JOVENCIO "Lot" Karaan Jr. Recently wed Marilou Aman at Manila Cathedral. Reception followed at the Rigodon Ballroom of Manila Peninsula Makati.

Their parents, lawyer Jovencio and Armenia Karaan of Bauan, Batangas, and Mati, Davao Oriental, respectively, and Nehemias and Carolina Aman of Polilio Island, Quezon, were joined by their principal sponsors: Dr. Floro Garcia, Teresita Rosales, Don Porifio Salud, Angelia Villanueva, Capt. Adolfo Armada, Aloma Lopez, Jorge Lontoc, Visitacion Buendia, Dr. Venanció Gloria, Ellen Andrada, Carlio Ordinanza, Aracelio Dormeo, lawyer Randy Rutaquio, Henedina Karaan, Marcelino Rosales and Adelaida Ayapana.

Best man was Jorge Lontoc, while maid of honor was Dr. Mary Clare Armada. Groomsmen were Jovencio "Jay" Karaan Jr., Marcelo Karaan III, Mark Aman and Gerald Armada. The pretty bridesmaids were Maria Natividad Karaan, Anna Katrina Karaan, Mary Ann Amarillo and Norayda Ayapana.

Flower girls were Hannah Anteha Armada, Chelsea Angelica Acejo, Micali Ela Aman, Clara Jessica Villanueva, Clare Adalen Ordonez, John Benedict Halili, Marc Inigo Aman. Ring bearer was Jason Rafael Karaan, coin bearer, Miguel Ryan Aman and Bible reader was Earvin John Ayapana.



WITH THEIR principal sponsors

Secondary sponsors include veil, Vincent Buendia and Sherry Bongalon; candle, Paul Enrico Lardizabal and Sylvia Karaan; and cord, Conrado Buendia III and Meriam Ayapana.

The church was decorated by Manila Blossoms and Flowers of May, which also provided flowers for the entourage and decorated the reception venue, together with Nature's Touch.

Officiating priest was Msgr. Nestor Cerbo and commentator was Margaret R Gloria. The readers were Camille Rosela Karaan and Dr. Robert Roy Mapa. Offerers were Marlon, Michelle and Blessilda Aman.

Director of the wedding and reception was Raymond Villanueva and host of the reception was Pinky Cabanatan.

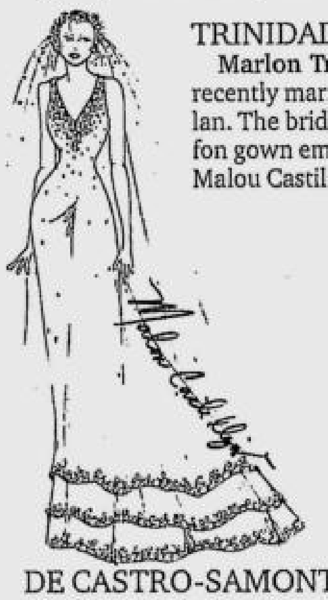
The cake was made by Vienna Cakes.

The bride's gown, the groom's barong and most of the male entourage's barong, including the fathers, were designed by JC Buendia. The bridal entourage's gowns, including the mothers', were made by Cecilio Abad.

After the dinner and program, the couple and guests danced the night away. After the wedding, the couple went on a honeymoon in Boracay and the United States.

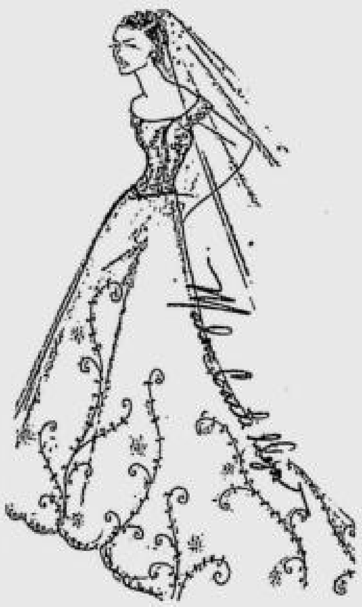
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



TRINIDAD-AGCAOILI

Marlon Trinidad and **Jocelyn Agcaoili** were recently married in Christian rites in Boracay, Aklan. The bride wore an embroidered layered chiffon gown embellished with pearls and crystals by Malou Castillejos of C&C Creative Concepts.



DE CASTRO-SAMONTE

Glenn Carlo de Castro III and **Penelope Samonte** tied the knot on May 10 at St. James the Great Church. The garden reception was held at the bride's residence. She wore an off-shoulder beaded gown by **Malou Castillejos** of C & C Creative Concepts.

VILLANUEVA-DE LA MERCED

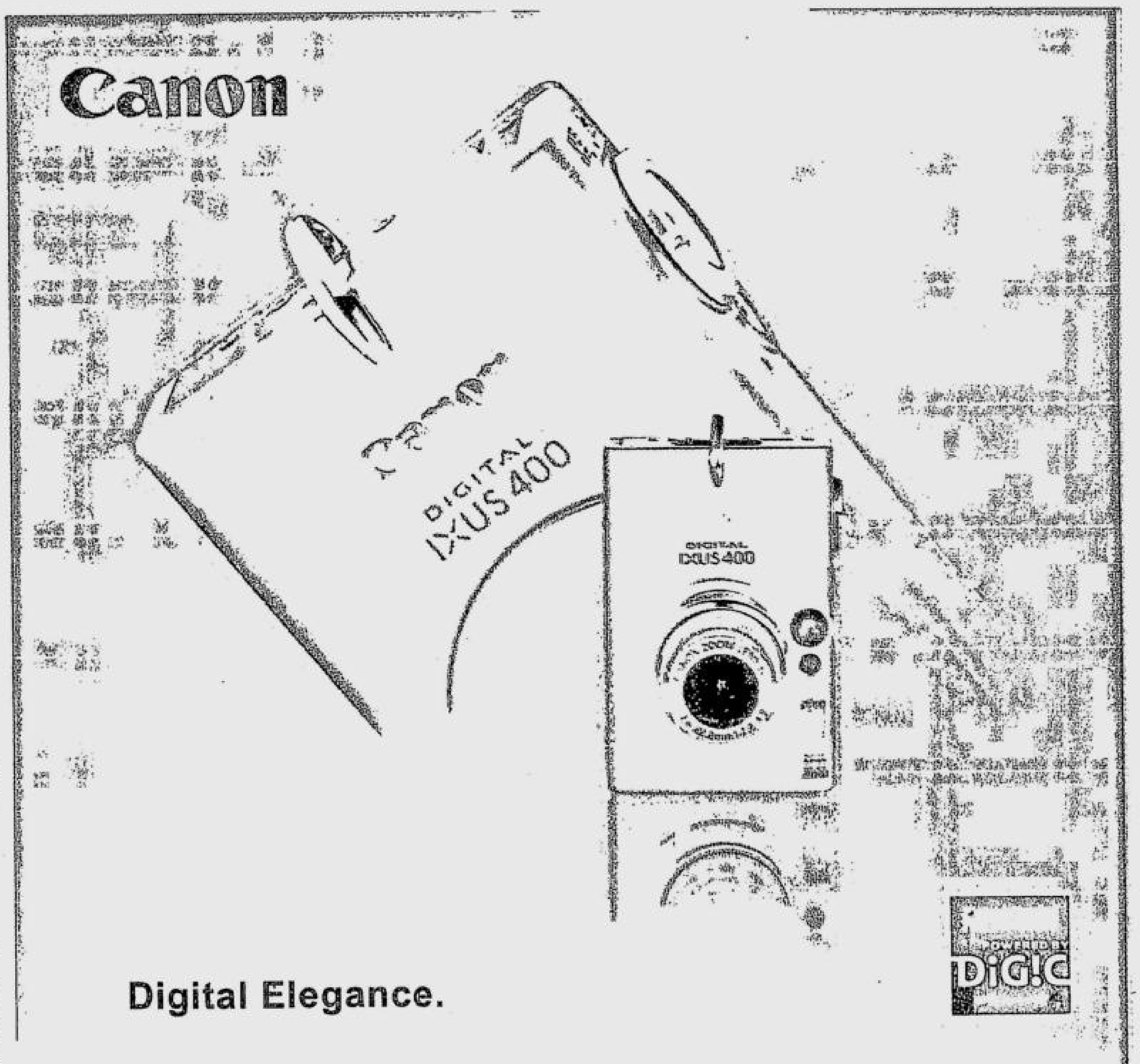
Apolinar B. Villanueva Jr., son of **Apolinar Sr.** and **Carmen Villanueva**, and **Desiree J. de la Merced**, daughter of lawyer **Cecilio** and **Teresita de la Merced**, recently exchanged matrimonial vows at Coconut Palace, Cultural Center Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The Christian wedding was officiated by Rev. **Clemente E. Guillermo**. Reception followed at the poolside.

The bride and entourage wore creations by **Edward Teng**. The bride wore a strapless duchess satin gown with hand-made beadwork using blue crystal glass cut beads and Swarovski crystals. Makeup was done by **Jackie Rivera**.

FRADES-BLAS

Francisca B. Collado Blas and **Marlon Bernandino Fradez** recently exchanged vows at Rizal Park Chinese Garden, Manila in rites officiated by Rev. **Timothy M. Sargeant**. The bride wore a **Suzette Baunsit** creation.

The couple is shown with their principal sponsors.



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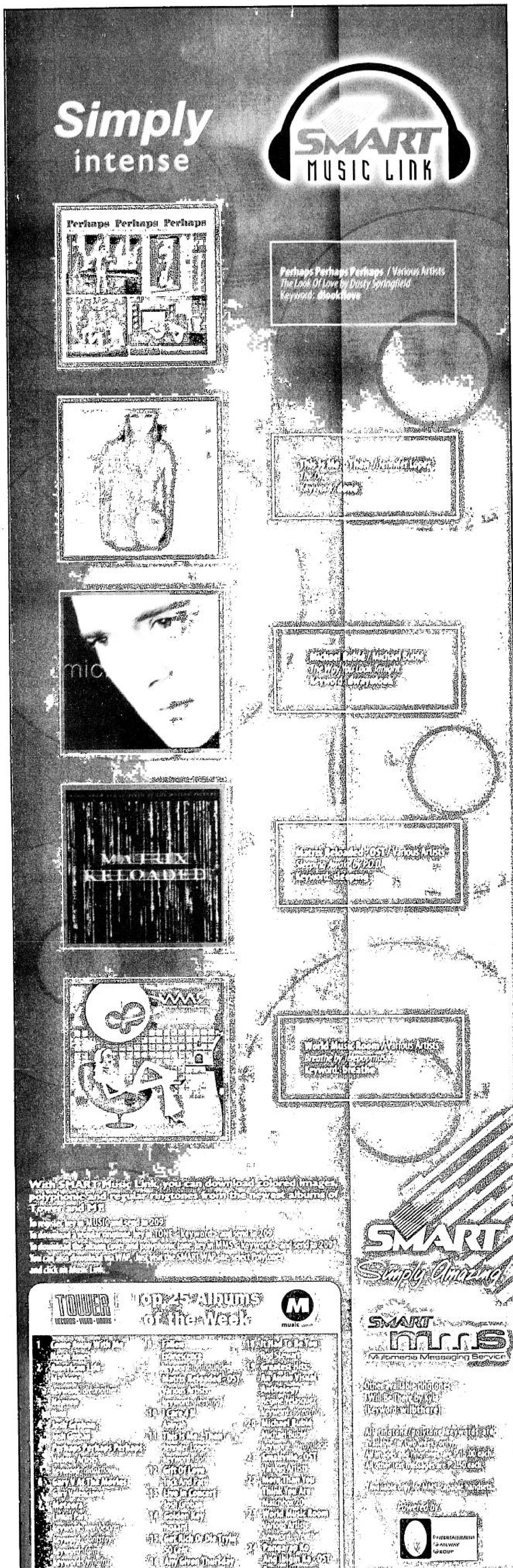
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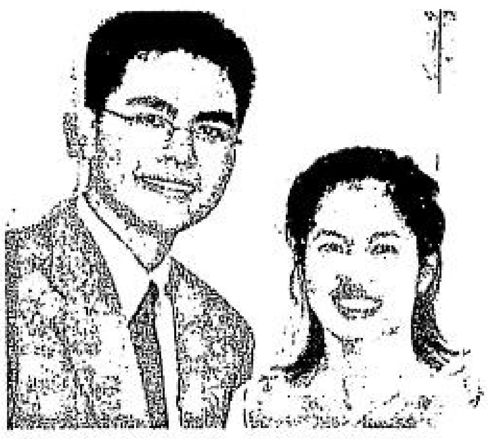
DUNGO GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Dr. and **Ms Benito Dungo** will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on June 6 at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala-Alabang Village, Muntinlupa. Their 10 children and their families will host a dinner-dance party at The Palms Country Club, Filinvest Corporate City, also in Muntinlupa. **Josefino Ramirez**, V.G., Msgr. **Rene Frias** and Msgr. **Manuel Sebastian** will officiate at the Eucharistic celebration and renewal of vows.

Edward Teng designed the gowns of the entourage.



ARBOLEDA-ACACIO

Arnel B. Arboleda, son of **Nelson** and **Felisa Arboleda**, wed **Anne K. Acacio**, daughter of **Edgar-Remegio** and **Ligaya Acacio**, on May 3 at Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church. Reception was held at Bulwagang Recolletos, Mira Nila, Tierra Pura, QC.

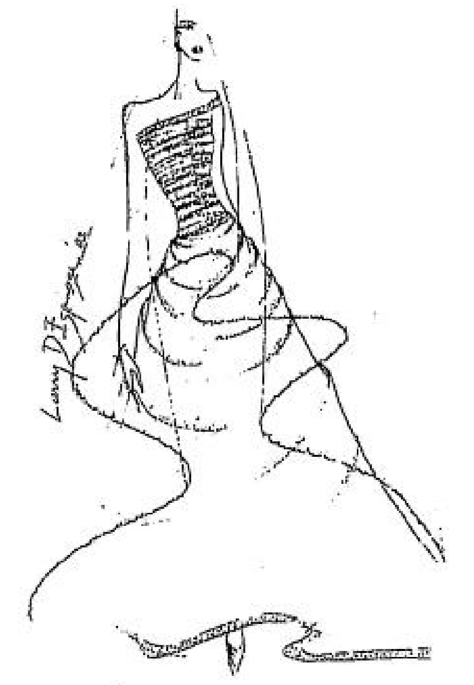
The bride wore a fully beaded gown of duchess satin with a fully beaded chapel train by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.

MORTA-GREGORIO

Teddy Morta, son of **Primo** and **Editha Morta** of Marikina, will exchange vows with **Rowena A. Gregorio**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Remedios Gregorio** of Baliuag, Bulacan, on May 24 at the Our Lady of Remedies Church, Malate, Manila. Reception will follow at the Remedios Jubilee Mission Center.

MENDOZA-PIMENTEL

Mark Stevens M. Mendoza, son of **Ariel Mendoza** and **Erlinda Mangilit**, will wed **Caroline Inocencio Pimentel**, daughter of **Cirilo Pimentel** and **Virginia Inocencio**, on May 23 at Iglesia ni Cristo chapel, Brookside Hills. Officiating minister is Bro. **Reynaldo Martinez**. Reception will follow at WEL Private Hall.


Larry D'Espinosa

GUANZON-TAMAYO

Liberty F. Tamayo, daughter of **Hermenegildo** and **Marilyn Tamayo**, will exchange marriage vows with **Leonard L. Guanzon**, son of **Leonardo** and **Zenaida Guanzon**, on May 17 at Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish Church, Poblacion, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Reception will follow at La Joya de Santa Rosa Clubhouse, National Highway, Balibago, Sta. Rosa.

The bride will wear an ivory silk organdy with duchess silk satin lining wedding gown by **Larry Espinosa**. The groom will wear a tuxedo by Exclusively His.

REYES-PELAYO

Arlon Buac Reyes, son of **Amor** and **Gracita Reyes** of Alicia, Isabela, and **Mariflor France de Leon Pelayo**, daughter of **Froilan** and **Rita Pelayo** of Makato, Aklan, were wed recently at the Manila Cathedral. The wedding was officiated by Msgr. **Socrates B. Villegas**. Baritone **Gamaliel Viray** rendered the ceremony songs. A garden reception was held at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila.

The bride wore a white duchess satin gown with cathedral train by **Edwin F. Uy**. Hair and makeup by **Tonett Chua** and **Bhoy Enaya**.

GARCIA-UMALI

Dr. Mario **Ferdinand SD. Garcia**, son of Dr. and Ms **Jose V. Garcia** of Oriental Mindoro, exchanged vows with **Fredalyn Umali**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Freddie Umali** of Umingan, Pangasinan, on May 10 at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Calasiao, Pangasinan. Reception followed at Star Plaza Hotel, Dagupan City. The bride wore a duchess satin gown by **Eli Cabrera**.

FERRER DEBUT

Rose Ann Ferrer, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Rosa Ferrer**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Café Villa in Fort Bonifacio. A BS Statistics sophomore at the University of the Philippines Diliman, she wore a gown by **Gloria Dalupen**.

VELASCO-LASTRA

Rodrigo Victor Velasco and **Nanette Lastra** are shown on their wedding day at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, with the groom's relatives.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

NEW WAVERS ROCK THE '80S. Victor Consunji, Mia Borromeo, Maurice Arcache, birthday host Patrick Reyno, Celine Lopez, Tricia Cu-Unjieng and Amanda Luym

Outwitting summer and contracting the '80s fever

Singles, unite! You have nothing to lose but your summer rash

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

BEATING the summer heat is quite a challenge, but there are limitless ways to victory.

You can, for instance, just cocoon in an aircon room all day or match wits with the heat and come up with something exciting to do.

If your birthday falls on a summer month, go host a theme party in a hip bar like Acquario or bring the house down with your DJ talent in a happening bar like Temple Bar.

Singles, unite! Have a chill-out party with new guests to generate a wider and wilder circle of friends. Or explore the ocean deep and swim with whale sharks in Donsol. Or join a town fiesta like the Lucban San Isidro Festival in Quezon Province.

You may want to watch the latest summer blockbuster like "Matrix Reloaded" at My Cinema. Or do some beauty improvements like the Obagi treatment of Dr. Belo.

If you're in the show-biz world, you can guest at a new lifestyle show.

But never have an affair during summer. The whole of Manila is in town due to the SARS epidemic, which is causing a "let's do the local thing this summer."

In the middle of your fling, you are bound to be seen by a friend of a friend and you know how messy that can be.

Birthday boys

The King of the DJ World turned a year older and brought the house full of clubbers and chillers down.

Yes, even **Manolet Dario** gets older, but somehow burning those LPs and CDs keeps him in the time-warped twentysomething look.

I should know his age. He was the ultimate spinner during our high school days and since then he has made a profession out of it. Who else can make money out of a hobby and be in constant party mode?

This man has talent. Together with his brother **Teddy**, they put up NBK—that's Natural Born Klubbers—doing clubbing and DJ management. I didn't even know such a profession existed.

So for his 39th birthday, Manolet had the hottest summer party at Temple Bar in Greenbelt 2.

Once Manolet starts mixing the tunes of the Beach Boys with Barry Manilow, then I will know he and I are really getting old.

Patrick Reyno, on the other hand, had a "Spirit of '87" fete in Acquario Bar in Malate.

Far from his director-of-Manila-Jockey-Club mode, Patrick looked like a true New Waver in his Sergio Rossi vintage shoes. He just blended in with his '80s-dressed guests who were almost in their diapers during this era so I think half of them only recognized the tunes with their remix counterparts.

It was great to see a crowd full of wavers dressed as Madonna in her extensive versions of the Material Girl and the men in the London Underground look.

Most authentic was **Tina Tinio**, wearing her '80s' "Mommy Dearest."

Xeng Zulueta was smashing in '80s Chanel in her Kate Torralba creation.

Of course, **Tim Yap** found something to fit the Best Dressed male in his fuchsia Andrew McKenzie jacket with turquoise D-squared pants.

The vinyl records were provided by DJ Montano and the visuals took everyone back to the age of hair spray, spiked hair and chains.

I was almost embarrassed to know all the tunes being played that night and just danced the night away. I looked around to see if I was the oldest in the crowd and saw Manolet, so that ain't too bad.

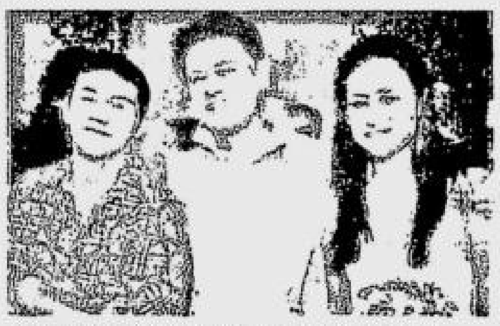
OUTWITTING/ O3

MARTINI toast to Patrick

SEXY Tricia Cu-Unjieng with hubby Philip

UPTOWN girl Pinky Webb

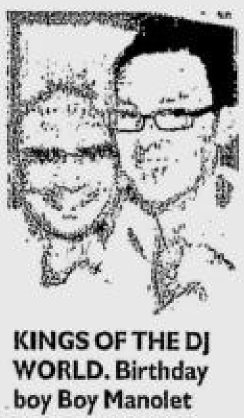
ACQUARIO'S DJ Montano in Billy Idol mode with '80s best dressed Tim Yap and Xeng Zulueta


CHUKRIE Prieto, Paolo Prieto and Ciara Sevilla

MIAMI-VICE look for Maurice Arcache with funky Vicky Zubiri

PUNK rocker Patrick Reyno and Celine Lopez

COCO-BANANARAMA CHICS. Malu Gamboa, Leica Carpo, Vicky de Leon and Joey Carpo


KINGS OF THE DJ WORLD. Birthday boy Boy Manolet Dario and David Jacob

PHOTOS BY
EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

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Parties orange and white

By Donnie Ramirez
Contributor

ONE OF the first social appearances of former San Juan Mayor **Jinggoy Estrada** after his release from detention was the inauguration of the multipurpose hall on the top floor of the spanking City Center Mall in Ortigas.

Jinggoy arrived with wife **Precy** and their three children. He immediately greeted his mother, Sen. **Loi Ejercito Estrada**, who was seated in a big table with her ever-loyal Mare ladies.

The 350-sq-m hall is equipped with state-of-the-art conference facilities. It is run by the children of prominent business couple **Johnny** and **Fe Ng**, who, incidentally, own the building.

The ground floor is occupied by fast-food restos and coffee shops like Figaro, and hobby stores like Puzzle Hauz and The Gamer's Shop. **Ben Chan's Fix Salon** managed by former model **Alta Tan** occupies most of the second floor.

San Juan Mayor **JV Ejercito** was the guest of honor. He cut the inaugural ribbon, assisted by actors **Rudy Fernandez** and **Amy Perez**. Other show-biz faces noted were **Ricky Davao**, **Rica Peralejo** and **Diether Ocampo.**

White party for Ethel T

Summer's heat wave was at full throttle, but the ladies who came to greet lifestyle editor **Ethel Soliven Timbol** a belated happy birthday looked cool in their crispy white outfits.

There was a good reason for the late celebration: Ethel's sked had been so hectic that party organizers **Letty Syquia**, **Mellie Ablaza**, **Millie Reyes** and **Marietta Santos** could not set the party on an earlier date.

The stone for the day was turquoise. Most of the ladies came wearing that gem because it looked attractive with white.

Decorator **Jun-Jun Ablaza** gave a light and breezy touch to the Syquias' living room by using pink tropical flowers to match the baby pink and lilac table clothes. The food was catered by Millie Reyes of the Plaza and included her popular *merienda* fare like pan de sal at *quesong puti*, *bibingka* and *halo-halo*.

Present were **Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela**, **Tereret Liboro**, **Daisy Payumo**, **Chloe Romulo-Periquet**, **Paz Yuchengco**, **Justa Tantoco**, **Gilbert Perez**, **Mila How**, **Ronnie Alejandro**, Rustan's **Vida Estrella** and **Rhoda Campos**, **Fanny Blanco**, **Lulu Castañeda**, **Baby Ortiz**, **Berna Lomotan**, **Nellie Bengzon**, **Alice Briones**, **Nene Leonor**, **Fortune Ledesma**, **Chit Gohu**, **Evie Costa**, **Tessie Luz**, **Rikki Jimenez**, **Resty Vergara**, **Ofie Recto**, **Lydia Reyes**, **Joanne Salgado**, **Monette Guevara**, **Maurice Arcache**, **Alex van Hagen**, **Thelma Gana**, **Agnes Huibonhoa**, **Chit Salud**, **Nini Layug**, **Malu Unson.**

Gourmet feasting on the beach

Boracay isn't really known as a foodie's haven, but one night not so long ago, the idyllic beach front of the Pearl of the Pacific, one of the best resort-hotels in the island, was the scene of a splendid gourmet happening.

With genial owners **Greg** and **Marilou Sanson**, bon vivants **Budji Layug**, **Louie Cruz**, **Tito Manapat** and the Sansons' lusciously tanned daughter **Rita** hosted a beach party that served more than the usual barbecues.

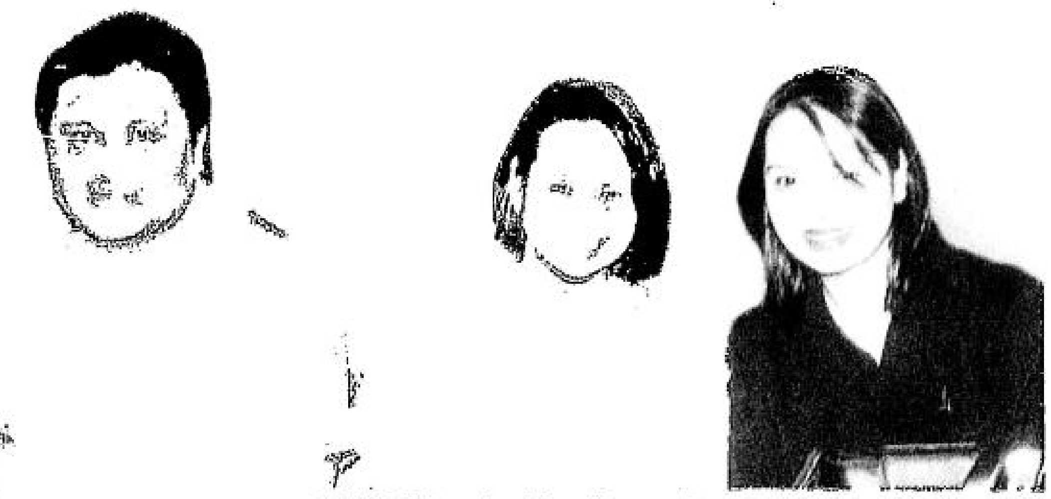
Enjoying the field green salad mixed with Granny Smith apple, aged cheddar and toasted cashews were Sen. **Sonny Osmeña**, landscape artist **Robert Borja**, former PAL flight attendant **Sandy Dee** and bachelor **Racy Franco.**

In another table, the chi-chi party posse of **Celine Lopez**, **Victor Consunji**, Wherelse's main man **Marcel Crespo** and sister **Finez**, **DJ Montano**, **Patrick Reyno**, **Gippy Tantoco** and wife **Hindy**, **Mel Velarde** and **Tessa MacDonald** feasted on fresh oysters and the sweetest crabs in the island brought in by **Sandro Rieta** of McSandro Bistro.

Elsewhere, **Bong** and **Armada Tirol**, **Katrina Guidotti**, **Gerard Fabie**, Cal Carrie's **Audie Espino**, **Mikee Carrion**, young publisher **Bayan de la Cruz** and emerging ramp diva **Bianca Valerio** were going back for seconds of the savory grilled delights.

Joining the party later was **Carminia Pavia** in a see-through pantsuit, with chums **May Muñoz**, **Jay Cruz**, **Boom Guevara**, **Ace Barretto**, **Mickey Ablan** and **Eric Ramirez.** **Vicky Zubiri**, another late bird, joined the group of Maurice Arcache.

Making their own heat wave was the chill-out music that **Tito Manapat** brought back from his lengthy stay in Ibiza, and the 120 bottles of Spanish red wine that he handcarried from Manila. Swell!


JINGGOY Estrada with mall owner Donna Ang and wife Precy (right)

GILDA Salonga and Mellie Ablaza

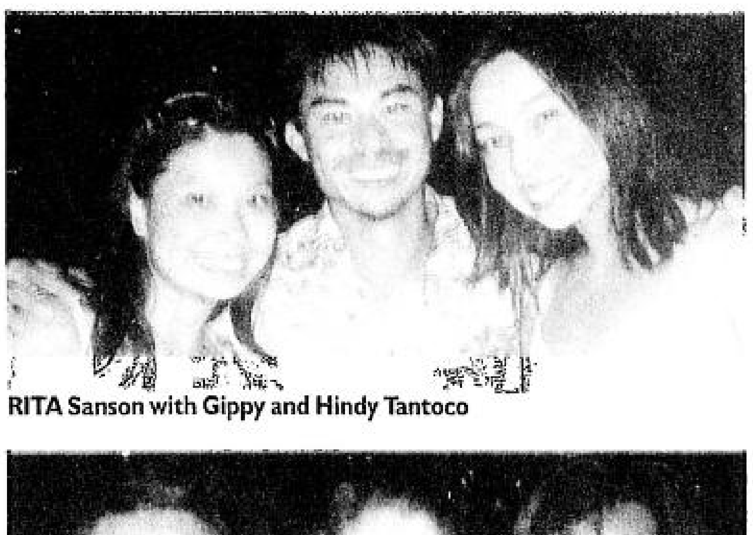
SAN Juan Mayor JV Ejercito with Fe Ng

RUDY Fernandez, Johnny Ng and Ricky Davao

LETTY Syquia, Nene Leonor and Ethel Timbol

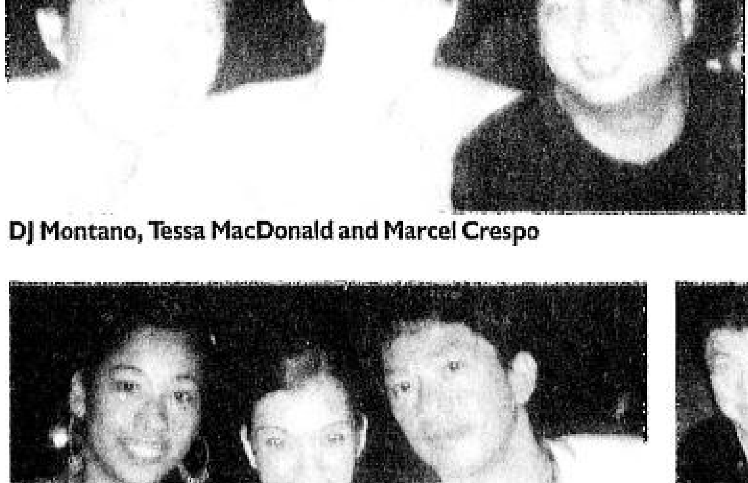
MARE LADIES ALL. (Seated) Fortune Ledesma, Fanny Blanco, Chit Gohu, Shirley Uy and Ruby Tuason; (standing) Fe Ng, Pacita de Guzman, Evelyn Duran and Fe Yu

DAISY Payumo, Offie Recto and Justa Tantoco

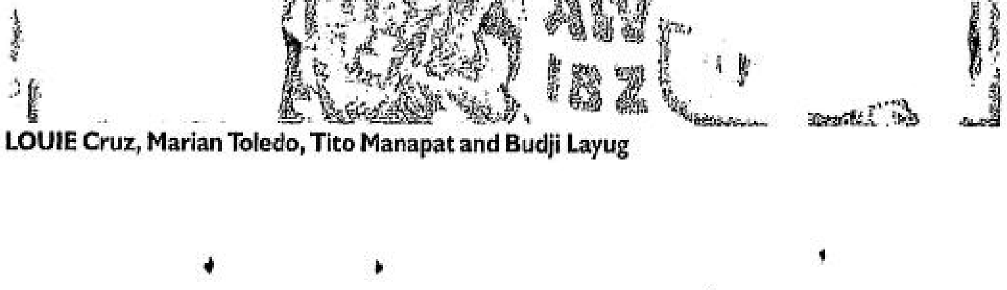

RITA Sanson with Gippy and Hindy Tantoco

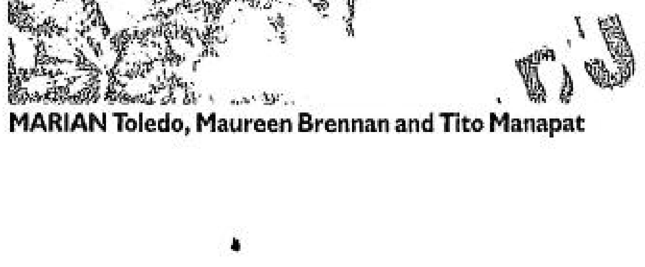
CITY Center Mall owners Mark Ang and Jason Ng

ALICE Briones, Ethel Timbol, Tereret Liboro and Fortune Ledesma


DJ Montano, Tessa MacDonald and Marcel Crespo

GERARD Fabie and Jam Ledesma


LOUIE Cruz, Marian Toledo, Tito Manapat and Budji Layug


MARIAN Toledo, Maureen Brennan and Tito Manapat

GREG and Marilou Sanson and father Angelo

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BANGKOK TREKKERS. Anton San Diego, Ricco and Tina Ocampo and Doris Ho.

PARTY HOST WITH FOXY LADIES. Julie Porent, Bea Zobel Jr., Jacques Dupasquier and Sigalit Djemal

SUMMER BUDDIES. Super sexy Vina Morales with **Joji Dingcong**

CHILLING OUT. Louie Ysmael with Nathalie Passicos

COOLEST IN WHITE. Duane and Mandy Santos

DISCO DUCKS. Raul Manzano and Pinky Amador

Outwitting summer and contracting the '80s fever

From page O1

Chill-out party

Jacques Dupasquier and his close friends like **Karen** and **Oudine Santos** and **Dudo Vaca** thought of gathering the singles crowd into one party and leave everything to chance.

Somehow down the text line, they ended up with telling friends about the party, forgetting the status requirement.

So the guest list turned out to be single-for-the-night crowd instead, hence the invitation I got. Jacques's resort-looking house was transformed into a chill-out bar scene complete with a cool sounds and yummy canapes.

We just watched **Pinky Amador** do her moves gyrating to the beat until the wee hours of the morning.

Supporting WOW Philippines

Since we all might as well spur the local economy since it is such a hassle to travel abroad, what with the SARs scare and all, discovering the countryside especially during fiesta season is another great way to beat the weather.

Angelo Barreto and **Joey Carpo** drove down to the town of San Isidro in Quezon Province to watch the Pahiyas Festival.

May 15 is the annual fiesta of the town, which is held to thank and pray for a bountiful harvest. The whole town is covered with colorful rice-made leaves which are only hung the day before to keep the element of surprise among the neighbors.

Actually, they are just outwitting each other to win the most beautiful display. I guess even in the province there is envy, but it is with pride and honor to win their highlight event of the year.

Like a true chef, Joey scouted around for the best *habhab*, the Lucban *pancit* served on a banana leaf. It's their specialty made of thin, crispy dry noodles with *lechon kawali* and veggies. But the food is only as good as its trolley, so the festival also has the Best Looking Habhab trolley.

My primary question was, "What's there to buy there aside from all the food?" Joey said the magic word: Hats.

I will surely grace their fiesta next year and will bring my own entry, "Karetela," with matching poster giveaways of my friend, **Kris Aquino**.

It really is amazing to think of all the things one can do here during summer. Just watching TV like the "All About You" show is entertaining enough to forget about the summer heat.

Just remember to keep your head cool and know that the weather will be a few degrees lower soon.

Feedback

Before I end this week's article, I'd like to respond to some reader feedback I've received on my past articles.

Re: Mt. Pulag, **Glibert Dauz** wrote about a neat coincidence: "Hello there. Got to read your article on Mt. Pulag. I just realized something... You were the guys going up when we were on the way down. March 8, right? Anyway, I have some pics of Mt. Pulag here: www.photos.ph/glibert. Feel free to share it to your friends." Well, if the readers spell your name properly, Glibert, I'm sure your site will get a lot of hits.

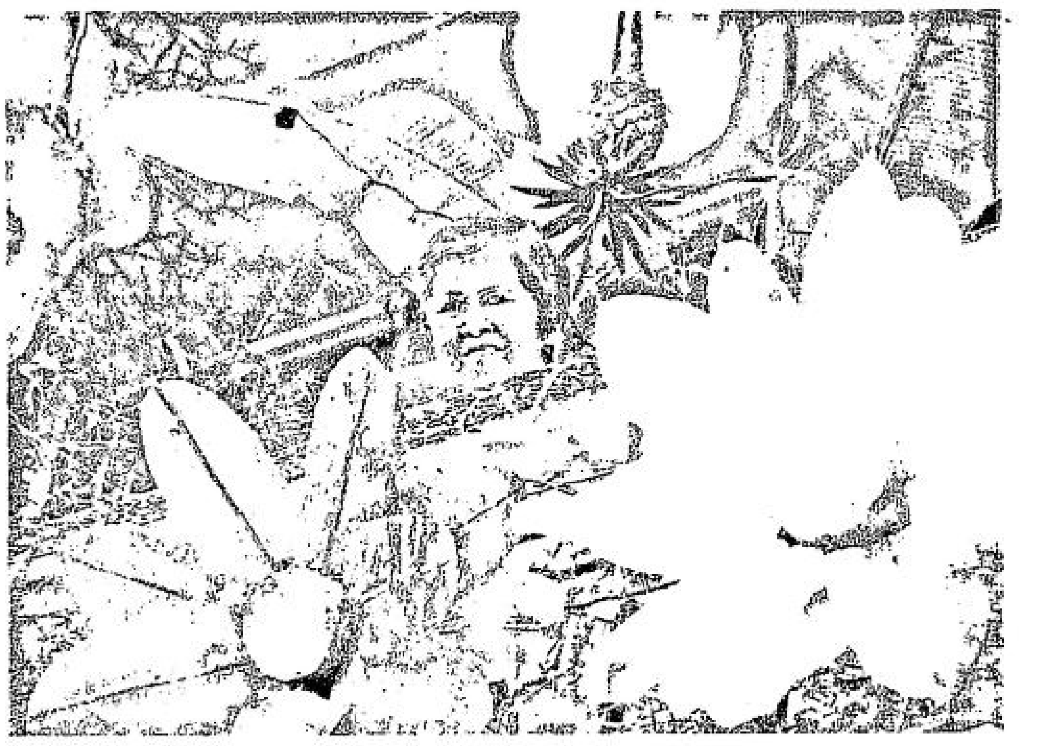
Re: the Shedd Aquarium, I received a touching e-mail: "I am **Alen Mondido** of Project Seahorse, a major partner of JG Shedd Aquarium for marine conservation here in the Philippines. I am one of the few individuals invited by JG Shedd Aquarium to the opening of the exhibit, but unfortunately I was not able to go because I was denied a US visa. Your article somehow connects me to the events at the Wild Reef exhibit. Thanks again and hope you feel proud also of being a Filipino and of our country being permanently featured at JG Shedd Aquarium."

All I can say to that is I hope Ambassador **Ricciardone** reads this and grants Alen a visa!

Re: the Lejeune-Gamboa wedding, I'd like to just mention that we writers are sometimes prone to a bit of poetic license in our description of events. I apologize to those readers who may have been offended by the seemingly randy events I wrote about at the wedding. In fact, the wedding party was good, wholesome fun and I may inadvertently have given too much importance to events that happened at 2 a.m. when the majority of guests were no longer around. I hope that I have not caused too much trouble to the swimmers, especially because the names I put down turned out to be the wrong ones!

Mea culpa, especially to **Olivier Passicos** from Nestlé Waters, whom I confused with another friend of **Christophe's**. Sorry if I brought some embarrassment to him or to his company.

Thanks again for all your e-mail feedback and comments to seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

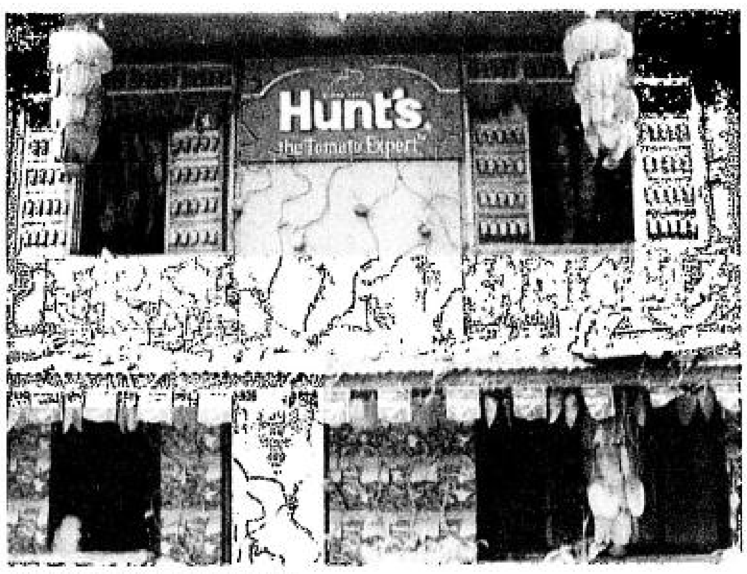

SUMMER in full bloom!

Going down the country road during fiesta season is great way to beat the heat

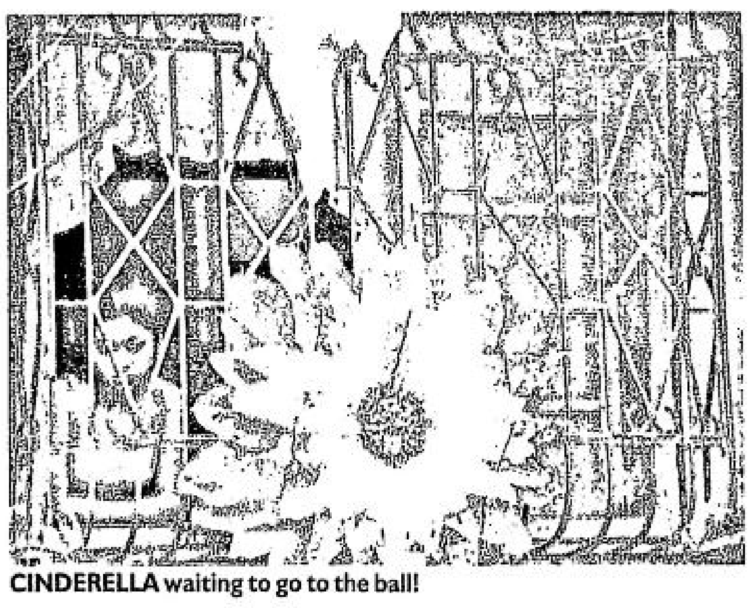
AN UNFINISHED house in fiesta mode.

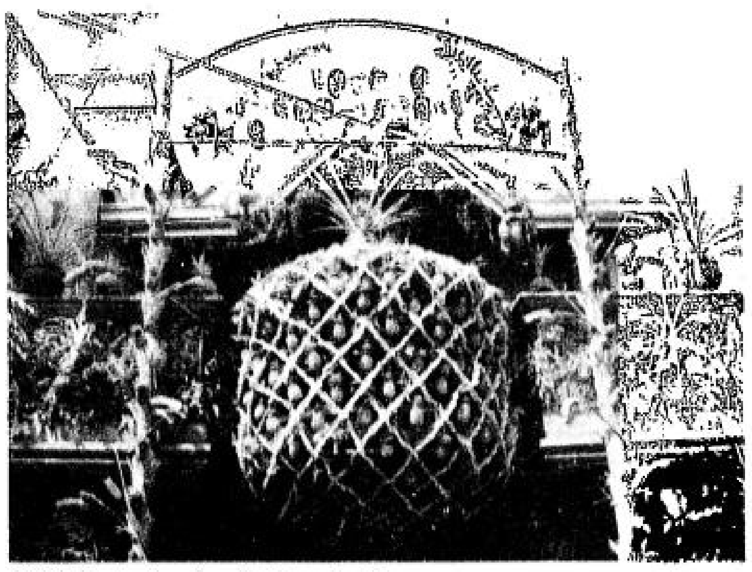
PHOTOS BY ANGELO BARRETO

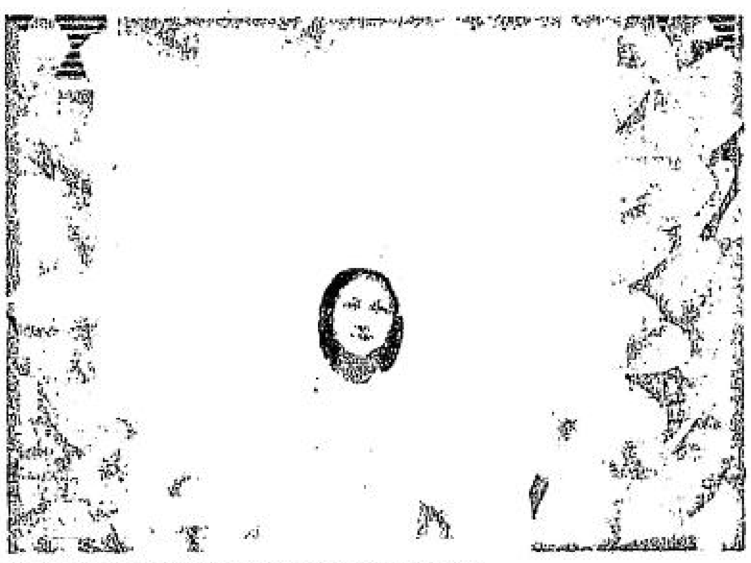
DISCO balls, Pahiyas style

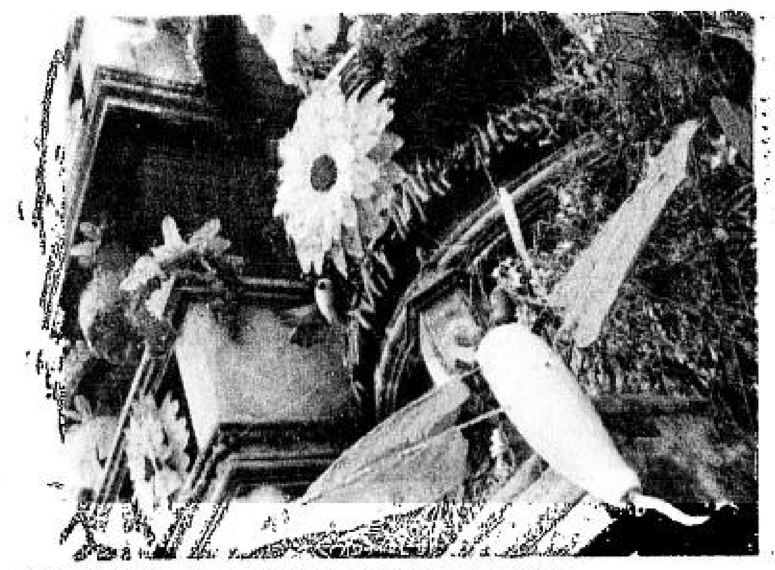


A TOMATO expert façade


CINDERELLA waiting to go to the ball!


AND this took only a day to set up!


THE SUNSHINE of Angelo's life, Joey Carpo.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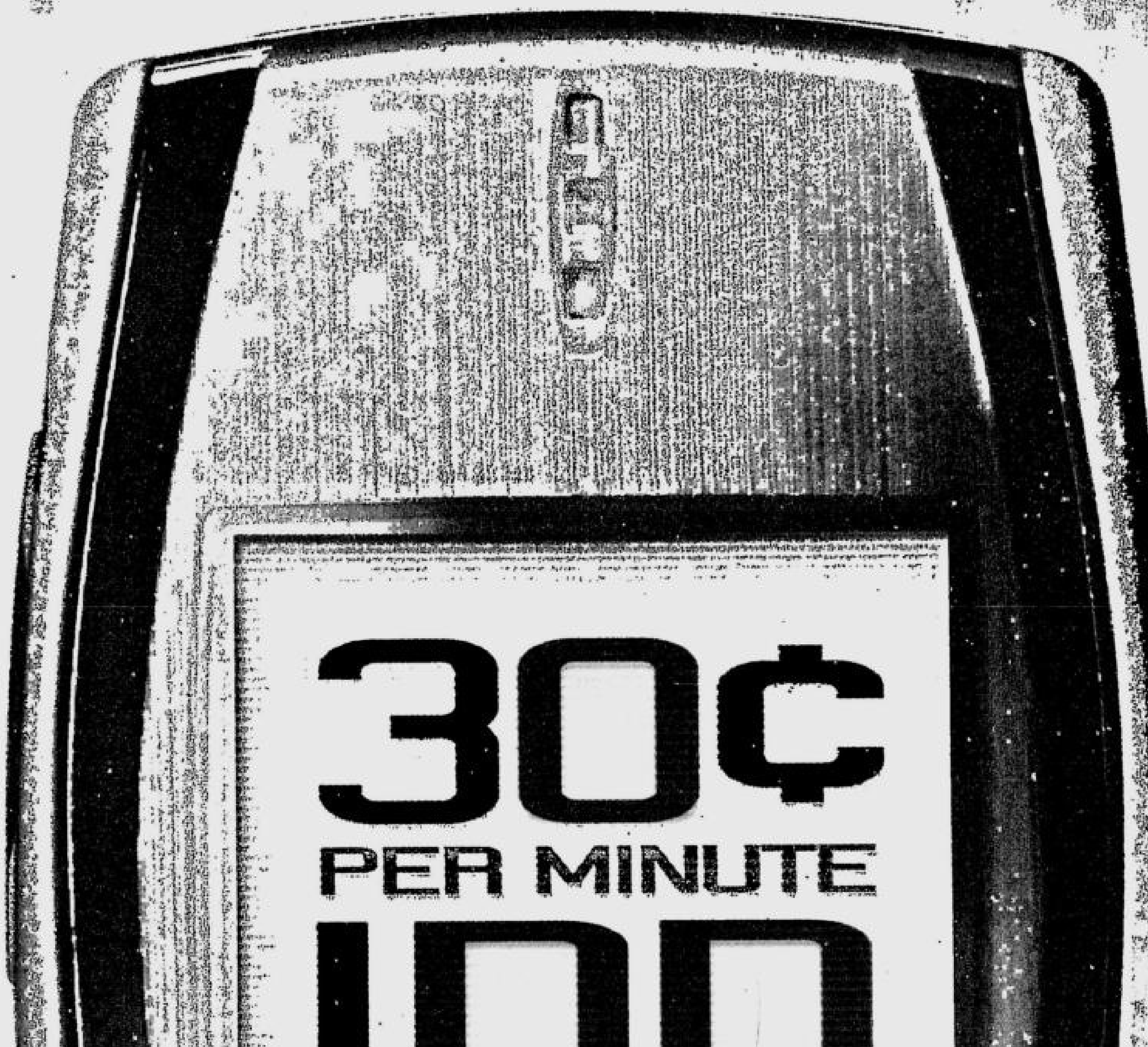

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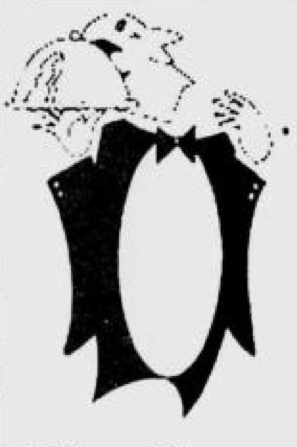

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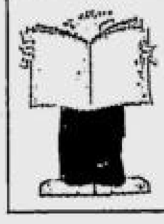
- Industry standard facilities
- Outstanding industry experienced faculty

Enrolment for First Semester SY2003-2004 is ongoing.
Scholarships available to deserving applicants.
For information, visit or call:
The Admissions Office, CHAP
26 Kamias Ave., Quezon City • Tel: 928-2641 to 42



Send those resumés instantly.
www.jobmarketonline.com
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

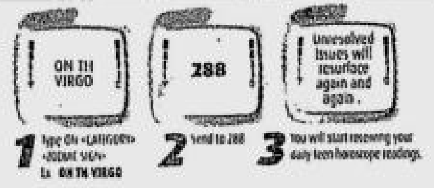
SMART zed

Is your allowance too small to buy anything in this paper?

Being a teen can be a hassle. Especially the part about not having any money. SMART zed can help make things easier for you. Just type **ON TH <zodiac sign>** and send to **288** to get zed's daily teen horoscope. You'll get useful advice on handling teen problems, plus it's just ₱2.50 per reading. Aw c'mon! Don't tell me your allowance is THAT small!

You can also use your cell phone to get love horoscopes (keyword: **LH <SIGN>**) at the touch of a button. Also check out career tips (keyword: **CH <SIGN>**), our daily survival guide for males (keyword: **MH <SIGN>**) plus advice for females (keyword: **FH <SIGN>**).

How to get your Teen Horoscope delivered automatically daily:



ON TH VIRGO
288
Unresolved issues will resurface again and again.

1 Type ON <CATEGORY> <ZODIAC SIGN> Ex. ON TH VIRGO
2 Send to 288
3 You will start receiving your daily teen horoscope readings.

Services available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers, ₱2.50 per horoscope received. For keywords of other zed services, type in **KEYS** and send to 288.
www.smart.zed.com

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB MARKET

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Employing Technology To Propel Your Career.

PICTURE YOURSELF @ Kodak

KODAK is the World's Leader in Imaging.

For more than 120 years, KODAK has defined the world of imaging. Now, it is paving the way for infoimaging—where image science and information technology converge in ways that were never before possible. This represents the evolution of communication and commerce through pictures— both moving and still, enabled by technology, creating significant new revenue and market opportunities for businesses around the world.

We are now in need of a highly motivated individual to join our dynamic organization.

Account Manager

Consumer Imaging

- A graduate of a Business, Industrial Management, Management Engineering or Marketing course
- Has 2-3 years experience in sales, preferably in consumer industry
- Has adequate understanding of the consumer imaging business, products and services and the customers' business
- Creative and dynamic, and with initiative and good independent judgement
- Fluent in both oral and written communications
- Pleasant, can immediately establish rapport with a broad base of people
- Willing to travel and be based anywhere in the Philippines

Kodak is full of diverse opportunities for continually building and reinventing your career.

The best time to join our company is now!

Send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records and 2x2 Kodak picture to:

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Deadline of submission of applications will be on May 22, 2003.

Rustan's

urgently needs...

MERCHANDISE MANAGERS

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course preferably with excellent academic records
- With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must have good communication skills
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense

AUDIT MANAGER/ANALYST

- Female, at least 26 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year degree course
- With at least two (2) years actual work exposure in External/Internal Audit
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, positive work attitude, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated, results-oriented and hardworking
- Analytical and must have good communication skills

MERCHANDISING PLANNING & CONTROL MANAGER

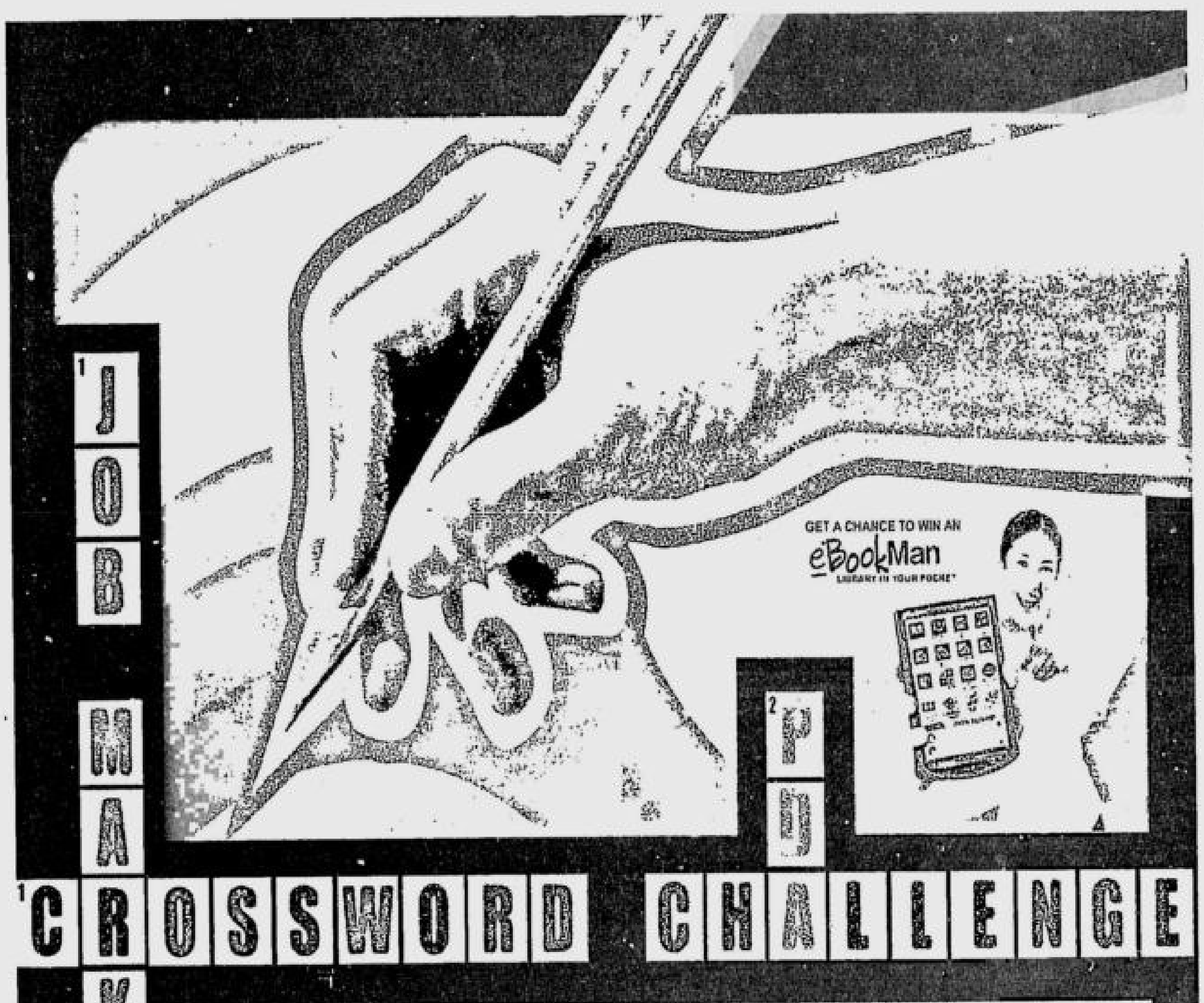
- Female, at least 24 years old
- Graduate of Accounting, Business Management or any business related course
- At least 2 years related work experience in the area of retail and/or merchandise planning
- Must be computer literate, analytical, systematic, trustworthy and hardworking
- With good interpersonal relationship skills and can work with minimum supervision

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of Management, Business Administration, Marketing, Economics or any business related course
- Preferably with at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business with focus in Marketing
- Must be good in Information Research, Project Management, Coordination & Analysis
- Must posses an analytical mind, be able to command respect and deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact number, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
HUMAN RESOURCE & ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
El Mercasol Bldg.
EDSA, Mandaluyong City
(near Ortigas fly-over, beside Barrio Fiesta in EDSA)


1 J O B
M A R K E T
2 P D I
GET A CHANCE TO WIN AN eBookMan
LIBRARY IN YOUR POCKET

1 CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

The new Job Market, the only classifieds section that helps increase your chances of getting hired, now gives you a chance to win a trendy eBookMan -- a handheld multi-media device that stores library of ebooks, music, audio-books, daily news & other essential information which are retrievable at your fingertips...anytime. It also functions as a PDA and voice recorder. From April 20 to July 06, a crossword puzzle will appear every Sunday in the Job Market. Fill up the puzzle completely and correctly using the clues given. Every week, five (5) winners will be drawn in which each will receive gift certificates to reputable computer schools for courses that will boost your credentials when you apply for a job. All the weekly winners will then vie for an eBookMan in the two major grand draws on May 12 and July 6. So are you up to the challenge? Read the new Job Market Crossword Challenge!

NIIT

Get more chances to win online! Simply visit www.jobmarketonline.com where the puzzle is posted from Monday to Thursday. Just print, fill up and send as many entries as you wish!

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promotion is open to all Inquirer Job Market readers nationwide as well as visitors of jobmarketonline. com.
2. For 12 consecutive Sundays (from April 20 to June 29) every Job Market Issue will have a crossword puzzle cum entry form published on the section's 2nd page asking questions about the job placment ads and the editorial content of the Job Market. Each week will feature a different set of questions and puzzle.
3. Readers are tasked to complete the puzzle using the job placement ads and articles that came out in the same issue as clues, and write their name, address, telephone number and signature on the space provided for in the entry form.
4. The same puzzle, questions and entry form can also be found in the jobmarketonline website from Monday to Thursday of the following week.
5. To join through jobmarketonline, visitors must print out the puzzle/entry form found on the website and fill it up manually. Only printed versions of the said puzzle/entry form are valid. No photocopies allowed.
6. Puzzle/entry forms (newspaper cut-outs for print entries and computer print outs for website entries) must then be placed inside a white legal size envelope and mailed to "The Job Market Crossword Challenge" c/o Job Market, Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Avenue cor. Yague and Mascardo sts., 1230 Makati City. Each complete puzzle/entry form serves as a single official entry during which the winners (5) will be drawn every week to receive the following:
   Gift certificates from any of the following computer schools: NIIT, STI, Informatics, Genetics and New Horizon.
7. Only entries with complete & correct puzzles are considered valid. All entries for the week (provincial and GMA) must be received by 5pm Friday of the following week to qualify for the weekly draw to be held every Monday after the submission deadline.
8. There would be a total of twelve (12) weekly draws divided into two (2) phases, each comprise of four (4), the other seven (7) and one (1) grand draw.
   Raffle draw details are as follows

DATE INCLUSIVE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	GRAND DRAW	VENUE
April 20 to May 4	May 9	May 12	Glorietta
May 18 to June 29	July 4	July 6	PDI Office

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11. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
12. Winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. Name of the weekly winners will be published in the Job Market and posted in jobmarket online every week.
13. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and valid ID (driver's license, TIN,SSS or Passport.)
14. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI
15. Employees & staff of PDI, their ad agency & their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity & affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER inq7.net jobmarketonline.com eBookMan

JOB Market
Where you find the best.

Do you have a degree in Applied Science (Radiography)?

Do you want a career in Sales?

If you answered YES to these two questions, then great opportunity awaits you.

- College graduate of an Applied Science (e.g. Radiography)
- Preferably has at least 3 years sales experience preferably in sales of medical equipments or diagnostics
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Qualified and interested individuals may forward their comprehensive resume with their transcript of records and 2x2 picture not later than May 22, 2003 to

M.C.P.O. BOX 1816
MAKATI CITY

A premier marketing research organization in the Philippines in terms of credibility with clients, professionalism of people and quality of service, has an immediate opening for:

HR ASSISTANT

The successful candidate shall be tasked to provide HR support functions which include recruitment, employment, benefits administration, training and development and employee relations. This position is open to those equipped with the following qualifications:

* Graduates of Psychology, Human Resources, Behavioral Sciences, preferably not more 35 years old
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* Thought leadership and forward-looking perspective
* Knowledge and understanding of client business environment and culture

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT!

Please send your comprehensive resumés with recent photos and transcript of records to
P.O. 1578 Code 1155 Q.C.
E-mail: **mb_hrd@hotmail.com**

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED

REEDLEY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

(A Singapore-American School)

LICENSED & EXPERIENCED TEACHERS
(for all Grade Levels)

URGENTLY NEEDED:

* MATH * SCIENCE * ESL * PE
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- **EXCELLENT COMPENSATION PACKAGE**

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Ms. MONA RIZELLE D. AUSTRIA
Pasig Blvd. cor Rosemarie Lane Pasig City
or email us at ris@reedleyschool.com

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PICTURE YOURSELF @

Kodak

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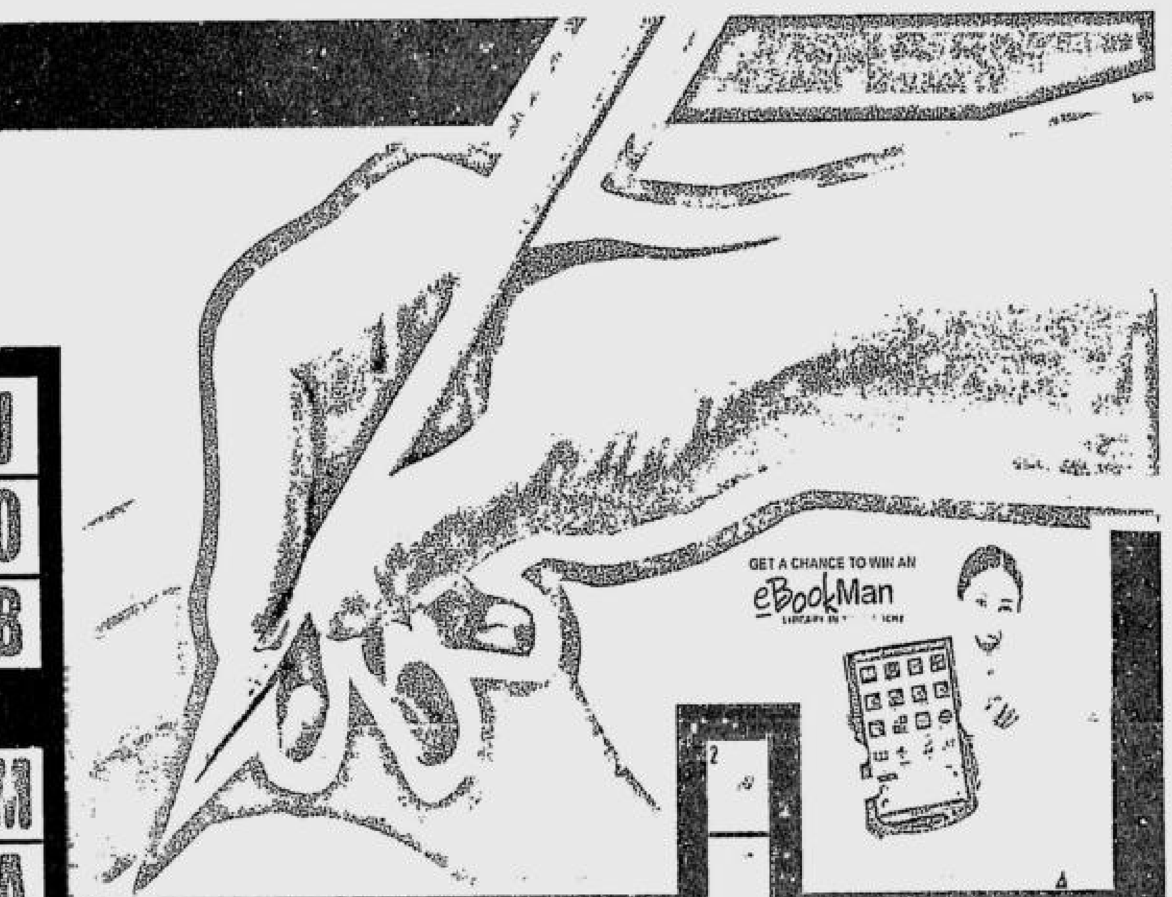

GET A CHANCE TO WIN AN

eBookMan

JOB MARKET CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

The new Job Market, the only classifieds section that helps increase your chances of getting hired, now gives you a chance to win a trendy eBookMan -- a handheld multi-media device that stores library of ebooks, music, audio-books, daily news & other essential information which are retrievable at your fingertips...anytime. It also functions as a PDA and voice recorder. From April 20 to July 06, a crossword puzzle will appear every Sunday in the Job Market. Fill up the puzzle completely and correctly using the clues given. Every week, five (5) winners will be drawn in which each will receive gift certificates to reputable computer schools for courses that will boost your credentials when you apply for a job. All the weekly winners will then vie for an eBookMan in the two major grand draws on May 12 and July 6. So are you up to the challenge? Read the new Job Market Crossword Challenge!

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INQUIRER inq7.net eBookMan

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Send your resume with 2x2 picture to:
Ms. MONA RIZELLE D. AUSTRIA
Pasig Blvd. cor Rosemarie Lane Pasig City
or email us at ris@reedleyschool.com

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Jardine Davies

Jardine Davies is widely acknowledged within the industry as market leader in the distribution of Agricultural Chemicals in the Philippines.

Over the last two years, we have successfully trialed 'NutriSmart™' an eco-friendly organic fertilizer. The trials have produced outstanding results and we are about to launch 'NutriSmart™' nationwide. Thus, we are seeking to appoint a:

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER
'NutriSmart™'

The appointee will have full profit responsibility for 'NutriSmart™' and will have a large field team of direct reports as they service our Distributor, Dealer and Farmer network. The appointee will work closely with our team of marketing professionals.

Applicants must have a University Degree and have had proven successful senior sales management in the Agriculture, Consumer or Construction Supplies product areas.

Maturity, excellent interpersonal and business communication skills are base requirements as are energy and commitment.

This is a senior career position with a highly respected multinational. Regular performance reviews, coaching and feedback are given. The opportunities for career progression and overseas training are excellent.

Both salary (including base and incentive elements) and benefits packages are very competitive.

Please send your resume by post, email or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 844-7022
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

FEP PRINTING CORPORATION

(Official printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING SUPERVISOR

- Knowledgeable in training needs analysis, design and implementation of training curriculum and evaluation.
- At least 3 years experience in a managerial capacity preferably in manufacturing company
- Strong management skills
- Able to work under pressure, proactive and with leadership qualities
- Computer Literate (MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

Qualified applicants are requested to submit comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records.

FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email to: araygon@fep.ph

***INFORMATION PRODUCTS CORPORATION**, an authorized corporate reseller of branded information technology equipment such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq, and various peripherals and consumables, has immediate openings for its 2003 expansion plans for the following positions:*

ACCOUNT MANAGERS, PCs and Peripherals Sales

Qualifications:
- *Male or female, between 25 to 35 years of age.*
- *Computer literate.*
- *Sales experience in the IT industry a must.*
- *Fluent in oral and written communications.*
- *Good interpersonal and organizational skills.*

ACCOUNT MANAGER, Maintenance Services

Qualifications:
- *Male or female, between 25 to 35 years of age.*
- *Sales experience in the IT industry a must.*
- *Fluent in oral and written communications.*
- *Good interpersonal and organizational skills.*

TELEMARKETERS

Qualifications:
- *Female, between 22 to 28 years of age.*
- *Computer literate.*
- *Fluent in oral and written communications.*
- *Good interpersonal and organizational skills.*

The successful applicants for the above positions may expect a guaranteed remuneration package consisting of an industry-standard monthly basic salary, transportation and allowance and an above industry-average sales commissions and incentives scheme.

Interested parties may apply in person or send their comprehensive curriculum vitae beginning 12 May at:

Information Products Corporation
Suite 306, Quadstar Building
80 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills
San Juan, Metro Manila, 1500
E-mail address: infopro@info.com.ph

IBM Business Partner

businesspartner hp invent

Robinsons Department Store

invites high caliber and results-oriented individuals

We are opening stores in Dasmariñas (Cavite), Lipa (Batangas), Plaridel (Bulacan)

Store - Based

STORE MANAGERS

Responsible for overall store operations - conceptualization and effective implementation of business strategies to achieve sales targets. With at least 3 years of experience in store management.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

Responsible for planning and implementation of activities relative to store and office administration such as safety and security, housekeeping, maintenance, and receiving. With at least 2 years experience in holding administration.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Responsible for department profitability. Assists the Store Manager in implementing customer service, merchandise display. Experience in service-oriented companies like retail & fastfood will be an advantage.

CASHIERS

Female, college graduate, and not over 25 years old. Preferably with experience in cashiering in any service-oriented organizations.

VISUAL MERCHANDISERS

Male or female, 21-28 years old, Graduate of Fine Arts or any related course. Experience in display or visual presentation will be an advantage. Knowledgeable in computer applications such as Corel, Adobe, etc.

Head Office - Based

ASSISTANT MARKETING SERVICES MANAGER

Shall assist the Marketing Services Manager in planning and overseeing the organization's marketing activities. With at least 2 years marketing related work experience preferably in a service-oriented company in supervisory or similar capacity.

ASSISTANT VISUAL MERCHANDISING MANAGER

Shall assist the Visual Merchandising Manager in planning and implementation of visual standards displays in all stores.

BUYERS

Shall be responsible for ensuring product availability & profitable turnover of merchandise. With at least 2 years related experience in retailing or wholesaling. Preferably with knowledge of JDA software.

Interested parties are requested to bring or send resumé with latest 2x2 picture and transcript of records

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE
Human Resources Department
110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
or email us at : humanresources@rds.com.ph

ASTEC

Astec is the world's leading supplier of power conversion products. We feature the broadest line of standard AC/DC and DC/DC power supplies in the industry, ranging from 1 Watt to 60K Watts. If a standard product does not meet your requirement, Astec is the leader in designing and manufacturing custom power solutions. Now you can depend on one source for power conversion solutions for every application.

LEADING ENGINEER (LE)

The chosen candidates will lead a team of electrical and mechanical design engineers engaged in design of Switched-Mode Power Supply.

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of EE, ECE or CoE
- At least 7 years of related work experience in leading a group of design engineers
- Strong Organizational, Communication and Leadership skills
- Ability to perform electrical circuit design and analysis, mathematical formulation, and have basic SW knowledge
- Pro-active, resourceful, and highly motivated
- Team player

DESIGN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (EE)

The chosen candidates will provide fundamental engineering support to the design team; build & test prototype samples; optimize design for manufacturability; perform failure analysis; prepare parts lists and related engineering documents.

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of EE or ECE
- At least 3 years experience in electronics design
- Familiar with PSU Safety, EMC, Manufacturing and Quality standards
- Knowledge of Windows applications, design/ simulation software
- Able to work with people from different cultures

DESIGN MECHANICAL ENGINEER (ME)

The chosen candidates will design the sheet metal and plastic packaging of the product, as well as the heatsink requirement for optimal airflow and heat transfer within the electronic assembly.

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of BS ME
- Firm grasp of the basics of machine design & drafting, material selection, manufacturing processes and heat & fluid flow
- Talent for visualizing and drawing own designs
- Strong interest in computers and CAD software
- Team player; willing to work beyond normal office hours

PCB ENGINEERS (PCB)

The chosen candidates will lay out printed circuit boards (PCB) and draw schematic diagrams using the CADENCE computer aided design (CAD) software. They will also be responsible in preparing PCB specifications, films, Gerber and drill files and other related documents.

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of EE/ECE or CoE
- Previous CAD experience an advantage
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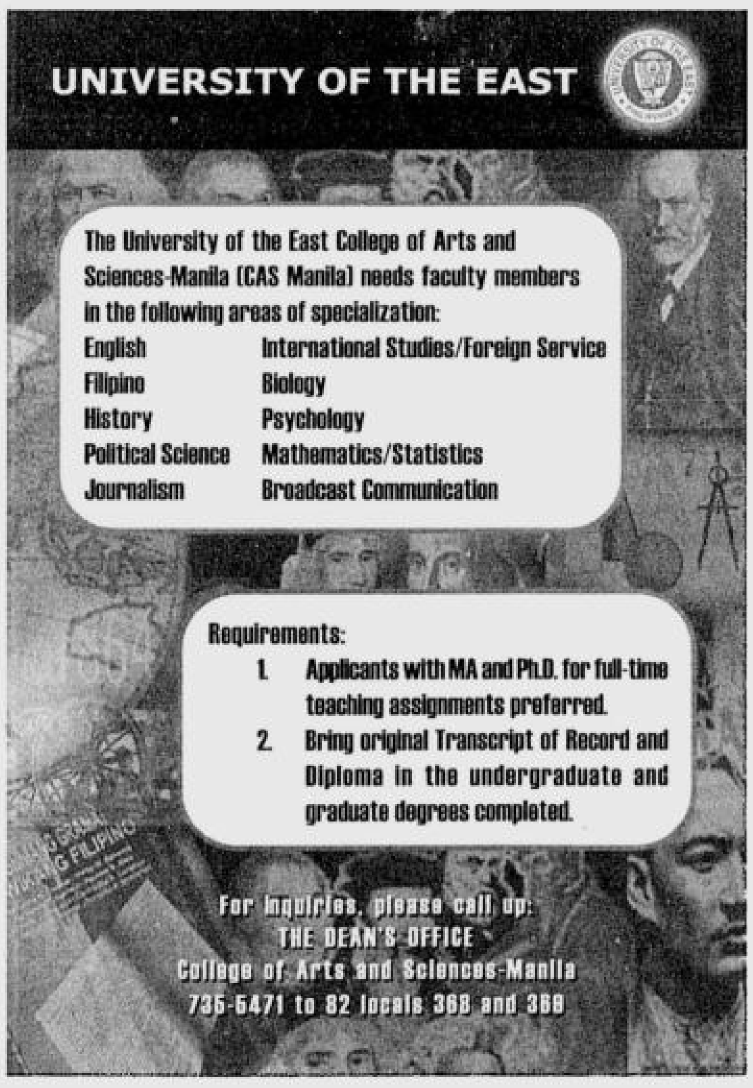

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Time management strategies for midlife career change

By Cathy Goodwin

WHEN people want to move to career freedom, often they don't want a new career at all. They love their career—but they also want a life, too.

Here are 10 questions to help you get started on the quest for "more time in your life—and more fun."

1. Where does leisure rank among your list of values? Are you working to pay for something that ranks lower in your list?

2. Can you seize moments during the day, evening, lunchtime and weekend? Think "fun" in 15-minute segments.

3. Can you buy leisure time? Hiring a teenager to mow your lawn may give you an hour or more, depending on the size of your property.

4. Are you doing things that don't need to be done? I once worked with someone who stopped answering requests for reports from "senior management." When someone called to ask, "Where is your report?" he would prepare one. Most of the time, nobody noticed! Same goes for housekeeping: do you need the "cleanest house in town" award?

5. Are you setting limits effectively? Saying "no" to invitations is a beginning. You can also define your scope: "I will be happy to help as long as I can do the work on Saturday." I've role-played scenarios with people who think the earth will cave in if they say "no." Often they're amazed to find that nobody misses them.

6. Are you losing energy to procrastination or fear? If you dread making that call or put off changing that light bulb, do it now and enjoy leisure, guilt-free.

7. Are you surrounded by ghosts of, "everybody else is doing it?" Chances are everybody else is miserable—or isn't doing it either.

8. Do you make time for energy boosters and time expanders? Meditation, journal writing and exercise will increase your energy and miraculously add hours to your day.

9. Can you take a large block of time each week to do exactly what you want? Two hours? A whole afternoon? An afternoon in an art museum (or an evening at a basketball game) will often unravel the knots that keep you working late.

10. Too busy to follow any of these suggestions? Feeling trapped by the "should" monitor? Call a friend, counselor or coach—someone who can offer you an objective insight and clarify priorities.

Bonus question:

Very few people on their deathbed say, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office," or, "I should have done more dusting." Will you be one of the few? Enjoy!

(Reprinted with permission from www.movinglady.com. *Cathy Goodwin, Ph.D is an author, career coach and speaker of "Fast Track to Career Freedom." Send* e-mail to cathy@movinglady.com*)*

WELCOME
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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

A different way to the top

Jobs & Careers

FOR someone whose background encompasses three different industries—government finance and television—Ruben Jimenez, ABS-CBN's senior vice president for engineering, has surely come a long way.

Fresh from the University of the Philippines with a degree in Sociology in 1976, Jimenez pursued an MBA at the Ateneo de Manila University. Afterwards, he immediately plunged into the workforce and became a senior executive assistant at the Commission on Audit.

Bigger exposure

Two jobs and several years later, Jimenez found himself the vice president for finance at Network Marketing and got his first exposure to production. Following the investment of a Hong Kong-based post-production company, Jimenez was given a larger exposure to the world of production. The rest, they say, is history. Jimenez was hooked.

Higher positions

His talent soon caught the eye of Federico M. Garcia, who was ABS-CBN's executive vice president and general manager at that time. Jimenez soon found himself as chief operating officer for ABS-CBN subsidiary Roadrunner Network, Inc.

Some years later, concurrent with his position as Roadrunner's COO, Jimenez's role was further expanded when he was appointed as ABS-CBN's senior vice president for engineering. He was tasked to restructure the division, following the necessity to improve its structure. Doing this necessitated the integration of the TV and network engineering groups, together with the minor engineering groups, as well.

People person

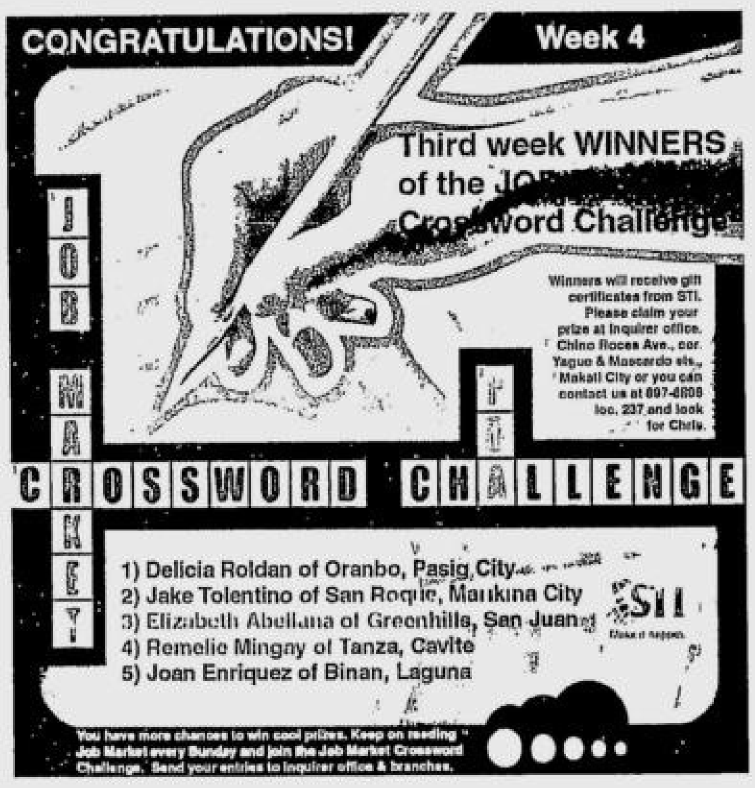
With 1,200 employees all under his jurisdiction (500 regular employees, 450 work pool members and 250 contractual employees), keeping tabs on all of them might at the onset prove to be a daunting task. Although a management committee was created in order to supervise all 1,200 employees, Jimenez retains a hands-on approach to things. "I am a people person," he relates. "One thing that proved to be very useful with regard to having a Sociology degree is that it helped me relate to people better. It gave me an edge in terms of analyzing organizational matters, among other things," he adds.

Profesional workforce

Asked about what he plans for the engineering division in the near future, Jimenez maintains that a lot still needs to be done. "We need to create an organization that has a rationale," he remarks, adding that, "We have to create a more professional workforce and come up with ways to motivate people into loving their jobs. This requires more time to come to fruition but it's well worth the wait." Short-term goals, however, include the implementation of the news automation system, something slated for June this year. Another thing that's currently in the works, he says, is the refurbishing of the whole post-production department.

JIMENEZ

Much as he enjoys his work, Jimenez's highest priority is his family. "Of course, I try to put in equal amounts of time at the gym and the golf course," he quips. In fact, when the time comes for him to slow down and think about retirement—not that it's going to be anytime soon—Jimenez says that he looks forward to that part in his life—for the simple reason that it will allow him to play more golf.



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QUALIFIED APPLICANTS should **PERSONALLY** submit a detailed resumé with job and unit description, certificates of employment, diploma and transcript of records, board license / certificate, PRC card, 2 letters of reference from previous / current nurse manager / supervisor. No Objection Certificate if ex-Saudi, and 1 pc. 2 x 2 picture between 7 AM - 4 PM for the issuance of KFSH Application Form / Medical Questionnaire and Interview of POEA Officer, to the

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT PLACEMENT BRANCH
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City and or at
POEA REGIONAL OFFICES

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION : 30 May 2003

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We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

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A NEWLY ESTABLISHED MANPOWER AND MARKETING COMPANY HAS AN OPENING FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

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a. Male and Female, 18 to 27 years old
b. With or without experience
c. With good communication skills
d. For Male, willing to be assigned as sales trainee;

(2) CPA's

a. Male and Female, 18 to 27 years old
b. With or without experience

(3) Promo girls

a. At least high school graduate
b. With pleasing personality
c. At least 5'4" in height

Interested applicants, may send their resumé at:

EL REAL MANPOWER & MARKETING SERVICES, INC.
17th Floor IJ 02 Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Buendia Avenue, Makati City

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Should be Articulate, Proactive & Results-Oriented. Training will be provided. No experience required.

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Send Biodata w/photo or visit us for interview on Tue to Fri 9:00am to 11:30am

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A progressive printing and packaging company recognized as one of the top printers in the country is expanding and immediately needs high caliber individuals to join our line-up of professionals and technical personnel:

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- ✣ With selling experience in Packaging, Printing or similar industry, not more than 30 years old; a Business, Marketing or any related course graduate, aggressive, highly motivated, results oriented and has a strong desire for excellence; must know how to drive

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- ✣ Accounting course graduate; has working knowledge and experience in Cost Accounting and Disbursement; not more than 35 years old; computer literate, hardworking, dependable, has strong desire for excellence.

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- ✣ With working knowledge of graphic design software, knowledge in Macintosh operations an advantage, not more than 35 years old; must be highly creative, a team player and willing to work overtime, with a Degree in Fine Arts or any equivalent course.

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- ✣ Degree in Computer Science, IT, Computer Engineering, 2 years work experience in Windows NT & 2000 setup, maintenance and administration, knowledge in TCP/IP, remote access, WAN, IIS, Network Cabling and structures, Windows 9x, XP and DOS; knowledge in website development and maintenance, Java, Visual Basic 6.0, SQL and ACCESS an advantage; male, single not more than 25 years old.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

- ✣ BS in Computer Science, IT, Computer Engineering, Computer Technician Course; 2 years experience in computer set-up, maintenance, troubleshooting and repair in a network environment, knowledge in Network Cabling, DOT Matrix, Inkjet and DeskJet printers repair, knowledge in Windows 9x, XP and MS Office Applications; male, single not more than 25 years old.

ROTOGRAVURE OPERATOR/ASST. ROTOGRAVURE OPERATOR/AND ROTOGRAVURE HELPER

- ✣ Graduate of any Engineering or any technical vocational course is preferred; hardworking, highly motivated, results oriented, and has a strong desire for quality excellence, experience is an advantage

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- ✣ Graduate of any Engineering, Mechanical/Electrical or any vocational technical course is preferred, with at least 2 to 4 years experience as Slitter Rewinder Operator.

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- ✣ BS Chemistry or Chemical Engineering graduate; experience in ink formulation an advantage

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- ✣ Graduate of any engineering or any vocational technical course, experience is an advantage.

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- ✣ Graduate of any Engineering course or any vocational technical course is preferred; not more than 28 years old, highly motivated, results-oriented, and has a strong desire for quality and excellence, experience is an advantage.

Interested applicants are requested to send their resumé to:

Box No. KA-003-03 UG
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

Wanted Immediately

EDITOR IN SCIENCE

- College graduate, major in Chemistry and/or Biology, preferably with master's degree
- Not below thirty-five years old
- With experience in textbook editing
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- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- With leadership abilities

Please send letter of application with CV/ biodata, transcript of records and ID photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
2nd Floor, NB Santos Building
937 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City 1104

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JUNIOR MANAGERS (Code: JM)
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (Code: MT)
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE (Code: CE)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- GRADUATES OF ANY 4-YEAR COURSE
- MALE/FEMALE
- LICENSED OR NON LICENSED, W/ OR W/OUT EXPERIENCED
- NEWLY GRADUATES AND OFW ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

Applicants are required to bring comprehensive resumé, and original credentials and recent photo.

Ex OFW OCW are welcome to apply!

Corporate Human Resources and Corporate Department
235 C MERCAN BUILDING EDSA EXTENSION PASAY CITY
on May 19 - 23, 2003
look for: **Ms. Jile** (Human Resources Specialist) HRD
Your application will be held in strictest confidence.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO EARLY RESPONDENTS

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Allegro Beverage Corporation
needs:

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College graduate, attractive base salary & commission package, food service experience preferred but not necessary. Send resume to: 2301 LISING BLDG., PASONG TAMO EXT., MAKATI CITY (TeleFax. 817-5528 / 817-1074)

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Web & Computer Programmer

- ➢ Preferably male, age 23-30
- ➢ Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- ➢ 1-year experience on Visual Basic programming & web page development

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- ➢ Preferably CPA, male or female, age 25-35
- ➢ At least 3 years supervisory experience, knowledge of taxation is a must
- ➢ Experience in external or internal audit an advantage

For immediate hiring. Send resumé via e-mail (info@img-corp.com) or apply in person (2pm-4pm only) with recent resumé & 1x1 picture at 3/F King's Court Bldg. 1, 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

A PACKAGING COMPANY WITH NEW PLANT IN TAYTAY, RIZAL NEEDS THE FOLLOWING **FOR IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT**

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS (2)

- Male, at least 24 years old; ME, EE or ECE Graduate
- With 3 years working experience in electric control panel/electronics maintenance work in manufacturing equipments
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Must posses Good Moral Character

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS (2)

- Male, at least 24 years old, graduate of any eng'g. course
- Must be well versed in plastic packaging operations
- Computer literate and with good leadership skills

GRAVURE PRINTING OPERATORS (3)

- Male, at least 25 years old
- With at least 2 years experience in gravure printing
- Hardworking and must be willing to work on shifts

EXTRUDER OPERATORS (2)

- Male, at least 25 years old
- With at least 2 years experience with extrusion capacity of at least 100kgs. per hour
- Hardworking and must be willing to work on shifts

Qualified applicants may send resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo to:

HRD
P.O. Box 38020 Cainta, Rizal

Wanted Immediately

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN MATH

- College graduate, major in Math

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN ENGLISH

- College graduate, major in English

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN SCIENCE

- College graduate, major in Chemistry or Biology

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN PRESCHOOL

- College graduate, major in Early Childhood Education
- Creative and can work under pressure
- Teaching experience is an advantage

APPLICANTS:

- 22-25 years old
- With good academic records
- Can do copyreading, proofreading, and mechanical editing
- Editing experience is an advantage
- Good in written and oral communications

Please send letter of application with CV/ biodata, transcript of records and ID photo to:

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SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
2nd Floor, NB Santos Building
937 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City 1104

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- ➢ Graduate of a 4-year course
- ➢ Single, female, not more than 30 years old
- ➢ At least 5'4" in height
- ➢ Preferably with 1 year experience in sales or marketing
- ➢ Proficient in English
  - ■ Applicants who can speak Chinese language is an advantage

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Qualifications:

- ➢ Preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- ➢ At least 3 years experience in General Accounting
- ➢ With a Supervisory/Managerial capacity
- ➢ Must be computer literate

Interested applicants are invited to visit our office at:

#125 Dangay St., Project 7, Quezon City

Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Carmina Cruz at 371-3929

Are you sick of dropping your resume off and not getting a call back?

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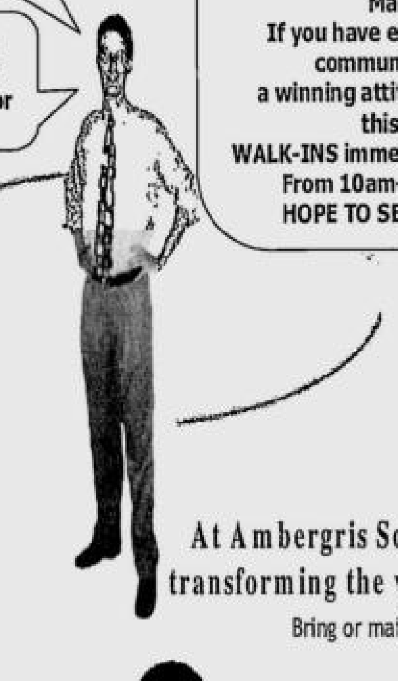

Well, if you want a job starting May 19, 2003---

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We need 150 CIAs by Monday, May 19th.
If you have excellent English communication skills and a winning attitude, come on by this week.
WALK-INS immediately interviewed From 10am-5pm. Mon-Fri.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

We are also looking for :

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  Must have excellent English communication skills
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31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Monday to Friday, between 10am-5pm
Or email at: lisa.areglado@ambergrissolutions.com

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- o Licensed Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineer
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- o Proficiency in computer software applications or e-procurement is an advantage

SALES

- o College graduate
- o 1-5 years sales, marketing, or sales-related experience; experience in a food, beverage, or packaging industry is an advantage
- o Aggressive, excellent communication skills
- o Willing to be relocated

Interested applicants should send their resumé with their transcript of records, and recent passport size photo to:

Recruitment
P.O. Box No. 271
Manila Post Office

(Attach picture on the upper right hand corner of your resumé and indicate the position applied for on the upper left hand corner)

WANTED SALES AGENTS

For Supermarkets

- At least 2 years experience
- Preferably female

Apply with resumé & new 2" x 2" ID photos; on Monday & Tuesday: May 19, 20, 26 & 27, 2003; 2-5 pm only.

Greenrock Ent.
202 Quezon Blvd., cor. C. Palanca St.,
Quiapo, (ilalim)
Manila

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- HR Managers & Staff

Manufacturing, Production & Quality Control

- Supply Chain Managers, QC/QA Managers
- Production Operators

Sales & Marketing

- Area Managers/Store Supervisors
- Sales Managers, Reps, Salesmen
- Sales Associates/Fashion Consultants
- Salesladies, Promogirls

Food Service

- Store Managers /Supervisors
- Management Trainees
- Chefs/Cooks
- Service Crew & Cashiers
- Bartenders and Waiters

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Submit Resumé at:

FISHERS OF MEN MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.
Aurora (Alabang) Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City
772-2946 / 772-3811(telefax) fishers@philonline.com

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES – male, w/ experience in sales & marketing, w/ driver's license RC 1 & 2, not more than 35 yrs. old, willing to accept both Makati and Cavite assignment, fresh graduates are also encourage to apply.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER – male, knows MAGIC version 8.3, w/ knowledge in documentation of report & flowcharting.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER – licensed, w/ experience in LPG plant maintenance, skilled in AutoCAD and in 2D presentation, willing to be assigned in Cavite / Makati.

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9775 Kamagong St., San Antonio Village,
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Email: mgc_hro@mydestiny.net/
rcyao@pacific.net.ph

The Law Firm of CAYETANO SEBASTIAN ATA DADO & CRUZ (CASELAW) needs

LAWYERS

with 3-5 years of experience in litigation

Applications may be sent to:

THE HIRING COMMITTEE
CASELAW
12/F NDC Bldg.
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ARE YOU CHIEF ACCOUNTANT MATERIAL?

- 30-35 years old, with at least 5 years continuous service in a company
- Experienced in all functions of accounting
- Capable of delegating, monitoring and working with deadlines
- Knowledgeable in: setting up accounting systems; Computer applications; financial analysis & report preparation.
- Background in auditing is an asset. References required.

We are happy to receive your resumés at:
dlignahires@skyinet.net

CAREGIVER

INSTRUCTORS

Submit comprehensive resume, with 2x2 ID picture, diploma & school transcript to:

Provident Aid Care

7F Don Tim Bldg,South Superhway, Bangkal, Mktl (bet. Pasay Rd. & Magallanes interchange)
providentaid@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES REPRESENTATIVE / WEB PROGRAMMER

- Male/Female, 21-29 years old
- Med-Tech, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Microbiology.
- Mass Communication or Marketing graduate
- With good command of English

Please submit your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 colored picture to:

HRD Code: SRO-03 P.O. Box #100
c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer 5th Flr. Bldg. B
SM Megamall

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How to spot, treat carpal tunnel syndrome

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: Last night I woke up at 3 am with a sharp pain in my forearm. My husband says I'm dreaming, but I think that it's from typing all day at work. Is there an easy way for me to tell if all that typing is doing me in?

I'm Typing As Fast As I Can

I saw a cartoon once that had a guy looking into a long tunnel. His face was frozen in a look that somehow combined hope, bewilderment and fear. The caption read, "upon realizing that the light at the end of the tunnel was a train."

Now I don't want to be an alarmist, but you may be looking down a similar tunnel of your own—the carpal tunnel-because you've got one of the early signs of carpal tunnel syndrome: burning pain during non-computer time.

Warning signs

Other warning signs are dull achiness, tenderness when touched, radiating pain, numbness and tingling, loss of muscle coordination, and stiffness. Now for the good news: serious damage can be prevented, but you'll have to act fast. Visit an ergonomist, physical therapist, or doctor and have it checked out. (And if you can pronounce "ergonomist," that and a buck should get you a cup of coffee.)

Here's a short explanation of repetitive strain injuries, courtesy of Ian Chong, a Seattle-based ergonomist. The wrist is a pretty busy place: you've got tendons, bones and a nerve all squeezed into a small area known as the carpal tunnel. If the tendons are forced to stretch at funny angles all day, as they often are when you type, they can get inflamed and swell up, putting pressure on the nerve. (And nerves like pressure even less than your customers do.)

Another kind of pressure will begin to mount on corporations if the recent $5.3 million decision against Digital Equipment Corporation is upheld. (They were sued for making keyboards that allegedly caused carpal tunnel.) But more important than winning a lawsuit is preventing injuries before they start. I've adapted the following tips from Zap! by Don Sellers (Peach Pit Press, 1994).

Tips

Can you avoid long stretches of repetitive movement? My wife, who writes all day, keeps worry beads and a ball by the side of her computer. No, she's not a Yankees fan: they're tools she uses to exercise her hands. She also breaks up typing with phone calls, errands, and stretches so her arms get a break.

Can you minimize the bending of your wrists as you type? Tendons are happiest when your wrists are level and your fingers are pointed straight at the keyboard, perpendicular to your torso.

Can you stretch your arms and fingers during the workday? Every interruption, lunch break, bathroom break, and phone call is an opportunity to flex your wrists, wiggle your fingers, shake out your arms, and otherwise relax and loosen that wrist area.

Your job may not send you down the tunnel of love, but, hopefully, if you follow the advice above, it won't send you down the carpal tunnel either.

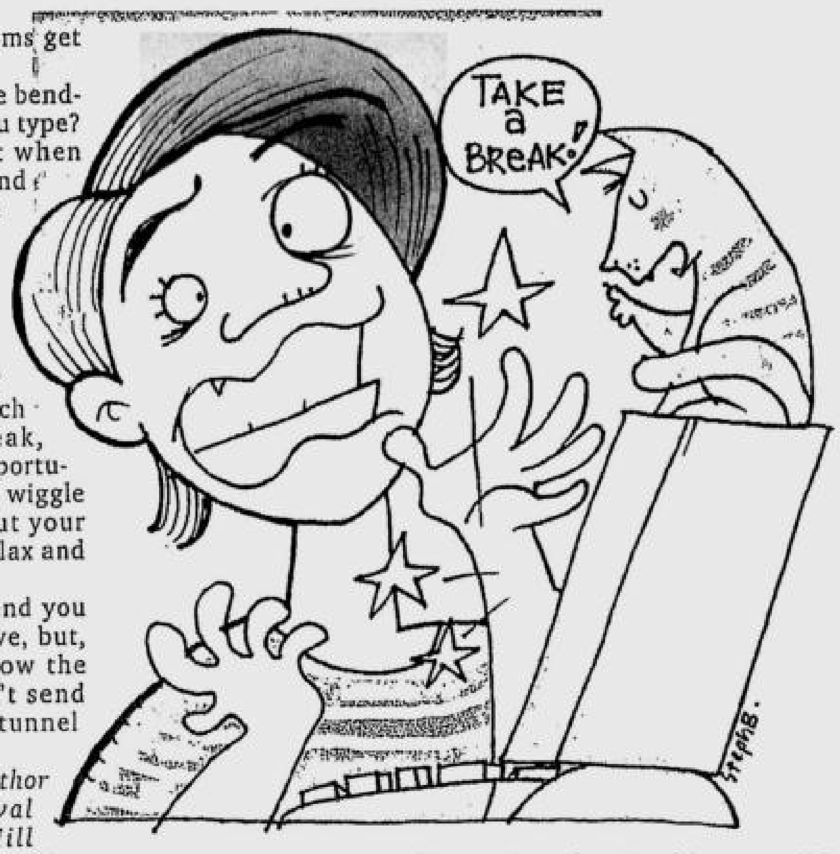

TAKE a BREAK!

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Employment...

(From page P12)

ents, inborn or acquired. Thus, generating income for one's self for a living is something that everyone is capable of doing, whether or not he or she gets a job in a company. Truly, in this sense, employment is a state or frame of mind where your resourcefulness is the key to your survival.

In this light, the political science graduate can also take the alternative of seeing what services he can offer or products he can make, given the knowledge and skills he has acquired in college, that consumers are willing to pay for. One successful book author who we featured in People at Work started his career by writing test reviewers in math for his fellow students, which became a hot selling item. This eventually led to his writing a math test reviewer book which led to his writing other books. A handicapped person generates additional income by encoding theses and term papers of students. A working mom recruits people in the provinces for employment agencies. An accounting student offers bookkeeping services to small companies. The things one can do to earn income, without necessarily working in an office, is endless.

In these hard times, we all must change our paradigms of work and making a living in order to survive.

(Email feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph. *For advice on job hunting and career tips, tune in to "People at Work sa DZRH" every Wednesday at 666 AM on your radio dial with the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and veteran broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

WG&A
into the
wind
and
filling
her

PHOTO BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

SUPER Ferry ties up as sponsor for the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Career Development on May 27, 28 and 29. Gina R. Virtusio, Super Ferry public relations manager and Donald Lim, INQUIRER AVP for Marketing Services, sign the sponsorship agreement.

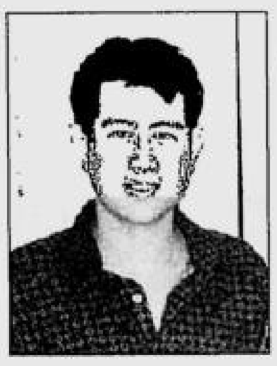
Experience
The Pet Pantry Success!

We've got a **Great Franchise Opportunity**.

If you qualify in terms of talent, skills, and capital, we have the best opportunity in business franchising today. Take a look at our franchisees that are enjoying themselves in a dynamic, growth driven industry, fueled with even greater future potential.

"With the variety of great products The Pet Pantry offers, coupled with its unique sales and marketing approach, you have the opportunity for significant business growth and achievement at your fingertips."

-Edward Estacion, 24
The Pet Pantry Makati
Franchisee



"My sales has been growing ever since I started my business 3 months ago and there is still a huge market out there for me to tap. Plus I've got the freedom I need to do what I want. I call my shots. It's a great business."

-Ojay Briones, 26
The Pet Pantry Marikina
Franchisee

Success. It's what we all want, but what does it mean? To our franchise owners, it means: We are the quality leader in our rapidly growing industry. Our dog food delivery business is the affordable route to success. It offers you low investment and high potential rewards with almost no fixed overhead. You can hit the ground running and start building your own business rapidly.

Our concept is simple and practical: "Helping our franchisees **get** and **keep** more customers and helping customers own healthy pets and save money every day."

At The Pet Pantry we have spent 8 years evolving a finely honed system of training, tools and support. This gives our franchisees an incredible competitive edge.

Unlike other business phenomena we've seen come and go over the past decade, one seems certain to stick: **Homebased businesses**. People like to work from home because they don't have to sacrifice family, productivity or profits. And more franchises are offering franchisees the ability to run a business from the comfort of their own homes.

Hard to Beat Ownership Rewards:
- No ongoing leases/ rentals
- No royalties
- High potential with unlimited client prospects
- Grow your own business through repeat clients
- Low overhead - Homebased business
- Ready customer leads when you start*
- Low start up capital of 350K
- Protected Territories

*For Metro Manila franchisees. Other areas will be discussed during meeting.

Few territories left: A05 Manila. A08 Caloocan. A09 Muntinlupa. A11 Las Pinas.
A14 Valenzuela. A15 Malabon. A16 Pasay City. B17 Cebu.
C18 Davao. E20 Pampanga. F21 Bulacan. G22 Laguna.
H23 Cavite. Other Provincial areas are still available.

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9264777 • 9247964 or visit our website at
www.thepetpantry.com

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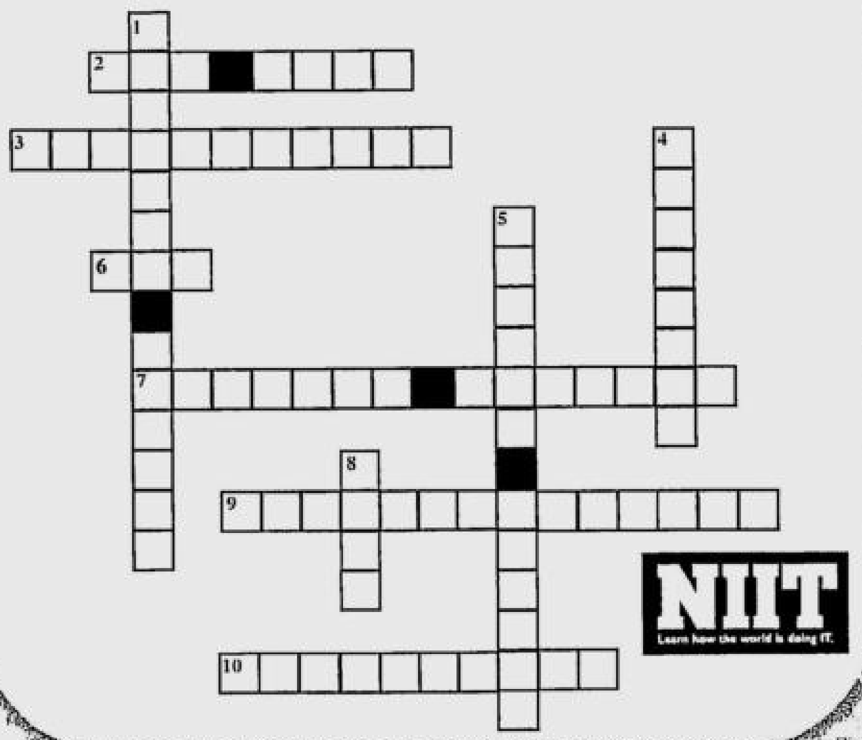
Check out this week's challenging crossword!



Using the clues below, fill up the puzzle correctly and completely.
Then send it to **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER** Chino Roces Ave.
Makati City or any **Inquirer Branch**, along with your personal
details for a chance to gift certificates from NIIT.

ACROSS

2 Everybody has a complaint against a ___ (see p.10)
3 Rustan's, G/F Rustan Bldg. EDSA, ___ City (see p. 05)
6 ___ Printing Corp, official printer of PDI (see p. 03)
7 Kodak is in need of an ___ (see p.02)
9 A college graduate is expected to perform general ___ tasks (see p.10)
10 Phil. Overseas ___ Administration (see p. 06)

DOWN

1 Market leader in distribution of Agricultural Chemicals (see p.03)
4 "I am the vine, you are the ___" (see p.10)
5 ___ syndrome: burning pain during non-computer time (see p.08)
8 Teaches how the world is doing IT

NAME ____________________

ADDRESS ____________________

____

TEL. NO. ____________________

SIGNATURE ____________________

INQUIRER iNQ7.net jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market
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New Call Center Seeks Management Expertise

Sterling Global Call Center Inc., a Division of Sterling Group of Companies is proud to announce the opening of its new international Call Center in Ortigas. The sixty-year-old Company has formed a strategic relationship with an American partner to open a new state-of-the-art call center facility. We need select management personnel on board prior to our scheduled July 2003 opening.

General Requirements

The ideal candidate for each position will have international call center experience, preferably with a sales mission. Must be able to speak and understand fluent English. Will be supporting a 24/7 operation so must have high energy and ability to work graveyard and other shifts. A big plus for experience working in an American call center. Must be results driven using "hands-on" approach. Formal education is not as important as a proven track record.

Operations Manager

- Direct support activities including: Human Resources, Training, Administration, IT and others during assigned shift.
- Must be capable of managing harmonious hard-driving support team.

Sales Manager

- "Natural Leader" with ability to produce team results on hourly basis.
- Must have "coach" personality with high energy and ability to move around sales floor for several hours at a time.

Human Resource Supervisor

- In addition to other responsibilities, will oversee HR Assistants in the high volume hiring and screening of new employees and other personnel.
- Must have solid understanding of HR related laws and ability to support dynamic call center operation.

IT Supervisor

- Directly in charge of IT Technicians.
- Must have at least two years experience on predictive dialer systems.

Training Supervisor

- Teach classes and supervise other trainers.
- Must be able to effectively teach basic sales concepts quickly to a high volume of trainees.

Admin Supervisor

- Responsible for supervising administrative personnel.
- Must be a team player capable of handling myriad of tasks simultaneously.

Finance Supervisor

- Responsible for supervising financial management taskings for call center operations.
- Handles tracking of payroll, receivables and payables.

If you are interested in a ground floor opportunity with a great compensation package including cash bonus plan, send your CV in confidence with two photos to: **The Corporate Human Resources Department**, 2302 Sterling Place 2nd Floor Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City (phone calls will not be accepted). Please write in upper right hand corner of CV cover sheet what position you are applying for. Selected candidates will be interviewed the week of May 26-30, 2003.

---

itpros.ph
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Nexus Technologies, Inc.

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Analysts/Programmers (code:A/P)
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The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

is a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP~PC works in close collaboration with its partners—the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs—to improve the health and status of women, through the use community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced

RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST
for its office in Cagayan de Oro

Qualifications:
The person we are looking for will have a relevant social science qualification, preferably with research units with an applied research focus; as well as knowledge and experience in research, monitoring and evaluation techniques utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data and information. Familiarity with community based programs and projects would be an advantage.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A "HANDS ON" APPLIED RESEARCH FOCUSED POSITION - ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE SHOULD APPLY.

Interested and Qualified Applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resumé by email or fax on or before 23 May 2003 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406
E-mail: fad-whsm@pacific.net.ph

WHSMP~PC

The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT - PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP~PC aims to improve the health and status of women, through the use community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

An important component of these plans is the Womens Health Actions (WHAs) which include some small infrastructure projects such as renovation or construction of barangay health stations and local water supply projects. To ensure the proper and timely completion of these projects, as well as to build the capability of the women/ Womens Organization to manage them:

The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced

PROJECT MANAGERS - SMALL INFRASTRUCTURE
for Project areas in Butuan and Legaspi

Key Tasks
- ☐ Advise and support [Women's] Community Organisations responsible for Project planning and implementation
- ☐ Supervise and progress implementation of [small] infrastructure projects, to ensure both compliance with prevailing building codes/regulations and timely completion, within budget
- ☐ Coordinate purchasing/procurement and control stores and materials and Identify and solve implementation problems promptly
- ☐ Liaise with relevant LGU and Department of Health personnel, including engineers, and with third party contractors, as required

Qualifications and Experience
- ☐ Must be registered/licensed [Civil] Engineer or Architect
- ☐ Must have extensive experience in the management of infrastructure Projects and troubleshooting delays in construction activities to expedite their completion
- ☐ Effective and positive communication with clients
- ☐ Preparation of project progress and completion reports

A DETAILED POSITION DESCRIPTION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST & ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Engagement will be on a contractual basis ~ interested and appropriately qualified individuals should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resumé on or before 23 May 2003, to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406
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HOTJOBS - MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST
By: Mr. Raoul Teh, Senior Consultant of Vantage Information Services, Inc.

ISSUE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE
By: Ms. Lina O. Monsod, spokesperson of GABRIELA

MOST WANTED - UNILAB, One of the country's model company
By: Ms. Imelda H. Centeno,
Corporate Vice President- HRD.
Organization Development

LEARNING TIPS : How to tell an officemate who has a bad habit of getting things without permission
By : Ms. Tita Datu Puangco

You may send in your feedback, comments and suggestions to:

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Fax Number- 892-2902
E-mail- workforce@ancillaedc.com.ph

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Job Objective

Chosen candidates will act as resource personnel for a new pharmaceutical products. He/She will also supervise and train Allied Health Professionals in addressing product specific questions.

Qualifications

- Medical Doctors with at least 2 years related experience in the pharmaceutical industry or experience in clinical testing of pharmaceutical products clinical trial and testing of pharmaceutical products
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English
- Proficient in MS Applications and Internet usage; Customer service oriented and willing to work in shifting schedule

LICENSED PHARMACIST (PHARM-001)

Job Objective

Chosen candidate will be trained on a new pharmaceutical product, and will assist customers with product specific queries.

Qualifications

- Licensed Pharmacists with at least 2 years related experience in Clinical or Industrial Pharmacy
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English
- Proficient in MS Applications and Internet usage; Customer service oriented and willing to work in shifting schedule

REGISTERED NURSES (NRS-001)

Job Objective

Chosen candidates will be trained on a new pharmaceutical product, and will assist customers with product specific queries.

Qualifications

- Registered Nurses with experience in clinical trial of pharmaceutical products
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English
- Proficient in MS Applications and Internet usage; Customer service oriented and willing to work in shifting schedule

Interested applicants are requested to send their updated resumé to:

Sykes Asia, Inc.
Attention: HR-Recruitment
Jobe Code: (XXX-001)
28/F Robinsons Summit Building,
Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
E-mail: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
http://www.sykes.com
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- *Strong leadership quality*
- *Willing to work for long hours and on weekends*

BRANCH MANAGERS

- *Male or Female, 25-60 years old, College Graduate*
- *At least Three (3) years experience in high-end resort, residential development or country club shares sales or direct selling*
- *Must be able to monitor his/her unit managers and marketing executives on a daily basis*
- *Strong in interpersonal communication and management skills*
- *Willing to work for long hours and on weekends*

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6 Lippay St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila

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TRAINING OFFICERS

- Graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resources Management and related disciplines
- With 3-5 years training and development work experience
- Good communication skills in English and Filipino
- Will be responsible for the design, conduct and evaluation of general and strategic training programs of SPI Learning Academy as well as prepare each program's logistics and administrative requirements
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- Graduate of Industrial Psychology, Business Management or Industrial Engineering
- With at least 3-5 years experience in OD or Corporate Planning with a strong process and systems orientation
- Candidates from the following industries would have an advantage:
  - IT-service providers
  - Manufacturing
  - Semicon
- Freelance consultants are invited to apply
- Should be proactive, results-oriented, self-directing, customer-oriented and flexible
- Good communication skills in English
- With above average scholastic records
- With previous work experience in performance consulting, diagnosis, design and evaluation
- Can facilitate large group interventions
- Would be tasked to function as an internal consultant of the company
- Main responsibilities include conducting diagnosis, designing and implementing of company-wide or department interventions that will help achieve organizational effectiveness through improved productivity and performance incentives
- Will also function as account officer who will serve as project lead in implementing OD initiatives for the assigned internal client

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to e-mail their resumés to s.ginez@spitech.com or send them to SPI HR Office 2F Skyfreight Building C NAIA Avenue corner PASCOR Drive, Sto. Nino, Paranaque City

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- Bachelor of Science degree holder, preferably Computer Science or related field
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- Knowledgeable of system maintenance and development
- Has good analytical skills
- Good in oral and written communication

Software Architects

- Bachelor of Science degree holder, preferably Computer Science
- At least one (1) year industry experience or relevant masteral units in systems analysis
- Has working knowledge in programming languages such as Visual Basic, Oracle Developer or ASP
- Knowledgeable of system maintenance and development
- Good in oral and written communication

PC Engineers

- Graduate of BS Computer Engineering, BS Computer Science, BS ECE, or any related degree
- Has at least one (1) year working experience on PC repair, maintenance, installation, configuration, and assembly of peripherals
- Knowledgeable of MS Windows (9x, XP, 2000 Professional), MS Office, MS Visual Studio, MS Internet Explorer configuration
- Has working knowledge of basic and advanced electronics
- Has good troubleshooting and analytical skills
- Good in oral and written communication

If you are interested, please submit an application letter indicating the position applied for, ID picture (2 copies), Curriculum Vitaé, and Transcript of Records. Please address the required documents to:

De La Salle University - Professional Schools, Inc.
Human Resources Development Office
Room 209 Gokongwei Bldg.
De La Salle University
2401 Taft Avenue, Manila

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* Comprehensive Resumé * Transcript of Records * Copy of College Diploma * Rating of Board Exam * Employment Certificate/Service Records * PRC Certificate/License *
Certificate of Trainings and Seminars * Passport

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QUALIFICATIONS:

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- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written
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- Assertive, team player, people-oriented, self-motivated, detail-oriented
- Willing to work on shifts
- For QAA: experience as QA Associate preferred

TEAM SUPERVISORS (Code: TS)
QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS (Code: QAS)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree holder
- Minimum of 6 months supervisory experience
- At least 2 years experience in a Call Center
- Excellent Supervisory, sales and problem solving skills
- Ability to work effectively with different types of people
- Ability to be an effective leader and role model for employees

TRAINERS (Code: TR)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioural Science or any related course
- Excellent communication skills and coaching experience
- Knowledge in Training Needs Assessment
- Experienced in module development and instructional learning
- Has sales training background
- Has experience working in a Call Center
- Flexible, detail-oriented, team player, can work under pressure

If you think you are cut out for the job, then send/email your resumé to

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5th Level, SM City Manila
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Hit the career trail!

JOBZ

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
EMPLOYMENT EXPO
May 12 to 14, 2003

JOBZ:
A Success

by: Christine Vida

The first JOBZ: Employment Expo for year 2003 kicked off last Monday, May 12, at the Glorietta Activity Center. With the objective of connecting over 100 of the country's top and most respected corporations with individuals in search for the right job or career advancement, the event attracted more than seven thousand (7,000) job seekers on its first day alone. A total number of applicants exceeded, with a good margin, the previous years' attendees. Thus, this makes it one of the most attended job fair in 6 years.

The ceremonious ribbon cutting was led by no less than PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, SVP for Sales & Marketing Renato Reinoso, VP for Advertising Pepito Olarte and AVP for Classifieds & Marketing Services Donald Lim. After a brief opening ceremony, the job fair was formally opened to the public.

JOBZ: Employment Expo exhibitors included some of the country's leading companies such as: Aboitiz Transport Group, Add Force, All Asia Customer Service, AMA Computer University, Asia Pacific College, Asia Partnership, Business Trends, Chowking, DHL Worldwide Express, DTSI, E-telecare, Family First, Inquirer, Link2Support, Marie France, McDonald's, Metro Gaisano, Philam Group, Professional Staffers, RMH Teleservices Asia Pacific, SAGE, Scad Services Pte Ltd, Shoemart Inc., SPI Technologies, Sportshouse Int'l. Leisure, Sykes Asia and U-BIX. Other companies from various fields took part in the event as major and minor sponsors and participants.

Aside from job placements, job seekers were also treated to free seminars that tackled topics on job hunting. Mr. Chito San Mateo, PDI HRD head discussed a series of seminars having a central topic of "Ensure My Parachute Flies when I look for a career: Tips & Techniques from What Color is My Parachute." Ms. Grace Oreña, May K President, taught seminar participants how to be the perfect job seeker. Lastly, Mr. Jesse Rebustillo, PDI Corporate HR Services head shared his knowledge and expertise in job hunting, spanning from resume writing to company ethics and culture. In between, exhibitors were encouraged and invited to conduct company presentations to further make their companies known to the public.

The 1st Grand draw of the Job Market Crossword Challenge was likewise held at the job fair. Ms. Marissa Saludo of E-Bookman, the promo's major sponsor, were present to personally hand the lucky winner the grand prize, an E-Bookman unit.

The three-day affair was capped off by giving each exhibitor a plaque of recognition for joining the job fair and helping make it a success. Business Trends, Sportshouse Leisure International and Sykes Asia were given special citation for their creatively designed booths.

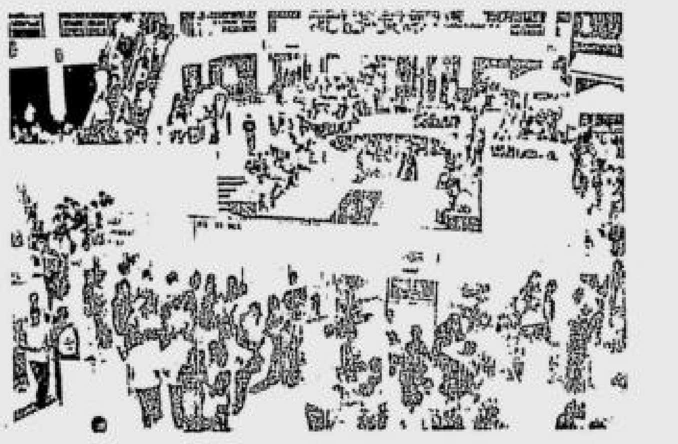
The event wouldn't have been possible without the help of Jobmarketonline.com, INQ7.net, NIIT, Oliver's Super Sandwiches, Carl's Jr., Armando Caruso and Ayala Center.

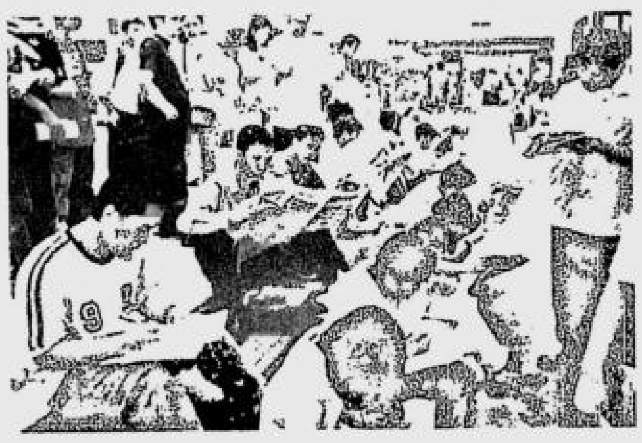
Inquirer Job Market has once again organized a highly successful Employment Expo that helps make the lives of other people better and inspire them to achieve their dreams.

Please watch out for the second run of JOBZ: Employment Expo coming in October.

THE EXHIBITORS

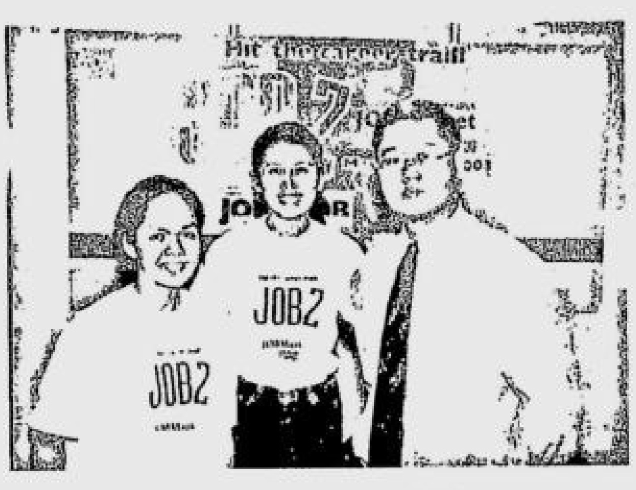
THE JOBSEEKERS





THE JOB MARKET TEAM

The SALES team



The MARKETING team

JOBMarket

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

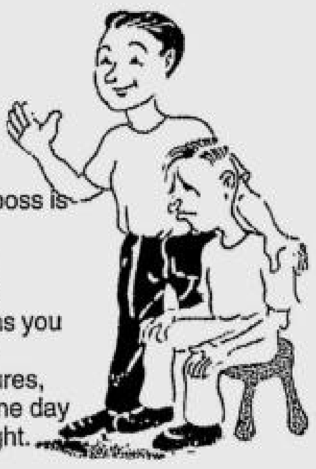
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

BEST Attitudes

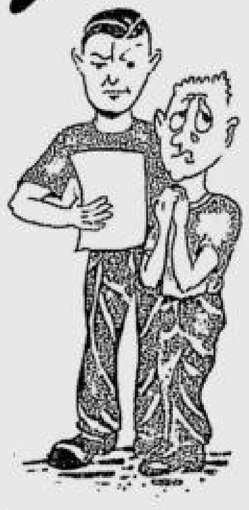
The good boss

By Teresa R. Tunay
Illustrations by Rolando F. Reyes

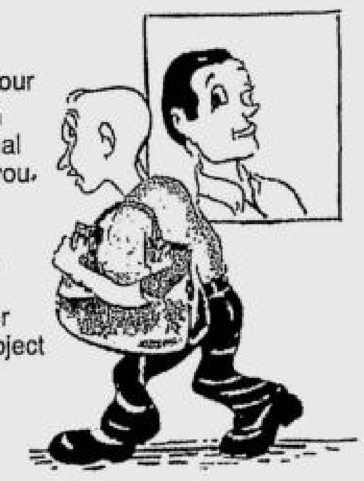
1 Do you notice something lopsided in your workplace? It's our attitudes toward superiors. Everybody has a complaint against a bad boss but no one ever praises the good boss—until he's dead. In fact, he is often taken advantage of by those who do not recognize his kindness as a gift. Do you have a good boss? Here are some of his qualities.



2 The good boss is the one with extraordinary patience—he tirelessly trains you despite your repeated failures, hoping that one day you'll get it right.



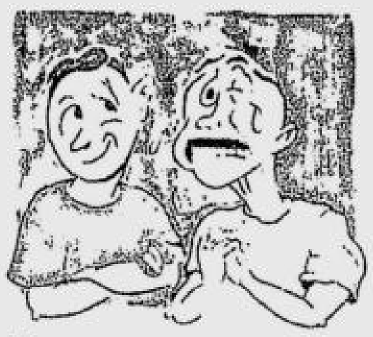
3 He always has room for your apologies, whether you write them down in a letter or utter them while scratching your head.



4 He understands your needs and closes an eye to your occasional abuses—like when you take home office supplies "on emergency" (you have no time to pass by the bookstore and Junior has to submit his project tomorrow).

5 He doesn't hold a grudge against you even when you badmouth him before your co-workers. He figures that as long as you're okay with him, what others say hardly matters.

6 He is easy to borrow from—when the company is unable to give you cash advance, he dips into his own pocket to help you out, and on "payable when able" terms to boot.



7 He can also be a friend to you—lends you an ear during off hours as you unload about domestic or personal problems.

8 He doesn't mind if you do your sidelines in the workplace—selling cosmetics, leche flan or cell phone housing during break time.

9 He lets you use official vehicles for personal use on special occasions—as bridal car for your nephew's wedding or to transport relatives from the province on your *lolo's* burial.

10 He's cool, patient, forgiving, kind, generous, sympathetic, understanding, loyal because he sees the good in you and hopes to uncover it before your own eyes.

11 We cannot see the good boss as a sign of God's love and providence for us because too often we care only for what we can get out of him. And sometimes, too, we even think of the boss' goodness as naiveté if not downright stupidity.

12 Let us take the time to look around us to acknowledge the good in our superiors, to ask God to let us see their goodness in the light of His wisdom, to be led by Him to find our own goodness within.

MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

Employment is redefined for job seeker

By Regina Galang Reyes

HERE'S a situation of a reader that many of our graduates experience: "I'm a fresh graduate of AB Political Science here in Cebu. Before I proceed to Law School, I would like to have a job or work. But I don't know where to work because most of the jobs available are mostly business-related jobs. I'm having a hard time in applying. My question is, where do PolSci graduates usually work? I'm looking forward to a positive reply on this letter. Thank you very much and more power."

Options

Where do political science graduates go? This is a good question, which perhaps some of our readers who are political science graduates, and who already have jobs can answer. What I know is that political science graduates usually end up taking law and becoming lawyers. Some end up becoming politicians, at one end of the political spectrum, or fulltime activists, on the other end.

Seriously though, if you are a college graduate, you can apply for any job position that specifies this requirement without stating any particular preference for a course. A college graduate is expected to be able to perform general administrative tasks like encoding (using the popular MS Office software), placing and receiving calls, filing, operating office equipment like the fax machine and copying machine, attending to clients and customers and even making simple reports. Such tasks are done in the various functional areas in an organization like marketing, finance or administration. Thus, you can apply in almost any entry-level position in these areas.

Media companies

Political science graduates can also try their hand in media companies. Usually, radio, TV and print media companies prefer hiring reporters covering the political beats who have a college degree in political science, assuming that such a background would enable them to understand the intricacies of the beat and enable them to give more in-depth reports.

Thus, if it is work that you need, while waiting to go to Law School, you can apply in practically any industry and functional area in a company where a college degree, regardless of the course, is the only requirement.

Redefinition

Graduates nowadays though should not look at employment as reporting to an office or working for a company. Employment, as I define it, is something that a person can do that has a value to a consumer who is willing to pay for such work. I truly believe that all human beings are capable of providing value since we all have certain competencies and tal-

EMPLOYMENT/P8

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What's inside

Working Wounded *P8*
Time management strategies *P6*
Jobs & Careers *P6*

Clinging to the vine

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

YOU'LL probably agree that with this kind of work I do—reflecting on The Word—there's no way I can go anywhere without admitting that "without Him, I can do nothing." With dozens of other concerns polluting my head with their own noises, I often find it next to impossible to say anything coherent in exactly18 lines of text. It's not easy to make gospel verses sound relevant (let alone uplifting) in about 250 words; it's like trying to contain the ocean within a hole you dig in the sand.

So I sit down before the computer praying to empty my mind until it's as blank as the screen. Here, I recall St. Augustine's prayer, something like 'Lord, if You want me to say something to man, put the words in my tongue,' for it's true that if I don't "waste time" listening to Him, there's nothing worthwhile I can say to you.

You need not earn your living as a writer or religious worker in order to be a branch dependent on the vine we call Jesus. Just as there are myriads of shapes, sizes, lengths of branches growing out from one vine, we who find ourselves in different occupations can likewise be channels of the same energy flowing through The Vine, the energy that enables us to "bear fruit." What matters is our surrender, our clinging to that vine, making Him the king within us, doing our work as He would want us to, and ridding ourselves of anything that runs contrary to His pleasure. In the workplace, "remaining in Him" means following a work ethic based on gospel values, doing our tasks fully aware that He is counting on us to build His kingdom of peace, love and justice on earth.

(Email the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
VALUED EMPLOYEE
StephB.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Gospel John 15: 1-8
"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

Genuine work efficiency

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ARE you an effective and efficient worker? Your employer will consider you as one if you produce results in your work and you do it within the least time and cost possible. When you reach the targeted quota of production earlier than the specified period of time without spending more than the required cost of operation, you are considered a very effective and efficient worker. You may even receive an award from the company in due time. If and when you do receive the award, would you really feel satisfied with your life and work?

We may have known highly skillful and talented persons who could do very well in their trade but who are not quite successful or happy in their work and family life. A friend of mine is an excellent mechanic, but because he has not yet succeeded curbing his vices, he has no permanent job and could not provide well for his family. Knowledge and skills alone are not sufficient to make us truly effective and efficient workers. Jesus, the carpenter at Nazareth, reveals to us the secret for genuine productivity.

We need to humbly accept that Jesus is "the vine"—He is the source of everything that we have and are; and that we "are the branches"—we depend entirely on Him, and without Him we can do nothing. We remain in Jesus and He in us, even in our workplace, every time we think of Him and ask Him to guide our actions and thoughts. When we do our tasks for love of Jesus, and let Him "rule" over our work, we become efficient and effective—we "bear much fruit!"

(Email the author at mfvg@skyinet.net*)*

sunday
GET TO KNOW SO[illegible] REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
May 18, 2003

Tita Trillo's Very Good Year

Long before most Filipinos knew what a cabernet was, she was teaching people how to appreciate wine. Today, restaurateur and pioneering wine importer Tita Trillo is enjoying the boom she helped make possible

By Alya B. Honasan
Photograph by Mandy Navasero

T'S DINNER at Magnum in Greenbelt, and owner Tita Trillo wants the bottle of Chateâuneuf du Pape to be just the right temperature. Three times the waiter takes the bottle from its ice-filled resin bucket, and three times Tita takes a sip and says, "No—not just yet."

Tita isn't being picky; she knows her wine, and exactly how to drink it. As president of Anthony's Wines & Spirits Corporation (AWSC), the largest and one of the first wine importers and distributors in the Philippines, Trillo was pushing cabernets and chardonnays when nobody knew how to spell them. "I was going from one restaurant and office to another doing wine seminars, anywhere they wanted a speaker," recalls the dusky, amiable Tita. "The only things they were drinking then were Mateus Rose, Blue Nun, or Asti Spumante!"

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sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
May 18, 2003

CABERN
SAUVIG

Tita Trillo's Very Good Year

Long before most Filipinos knew what a cabernet was, she was teaching people how to appreciate wine. Today, restaurateur and pioneering wine importer Tita Trillo is enjoying the boom she helped make possible

By Alya B. Honasan
Photograph by Mandy Navasero

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Tita

...from page 1

The Trillos are also the successful restaurateurs behind such wine-friendly establishments as Beluga Bar and Bistro in Bel-Air, Cork Wine Cellar and Grill in Rockwell and ABS-CBN, Quezon City, and Magnum Wine Cellar, Bar and Grill in Greenbelt 2. All these outlets have walls lined with wine shelves, so people have access to the bottles. "This is our main business, and we want to make it easy if you want to pick up the wine you just had and bring it home at wholesale prices."

Tita was introduced to the wine business when she married Anthony in 1976. Before that, admits the former Philippine Airlines flight attendant, she simply had to know what to serve passengers. "Wine was not my passion then; knowing what wine went with what food was just part of the job."

She later got involved in earnest by osmosis from Anthony. It was Tita who ventured into serious oenology, training first with Robert Mondavi in Napa Valley, California. "Remember, at this time, in the early '80s, nobody knew much about wine, red or white. In Napa Valley I was going to the vineyards and checking the soil, talking to the winemakers." This was followed by more training stints in Cognac, France, since the Trillos were trading with Remy Martin, and then in Bordeaux. "I wanted to get hands-on training, because if there's an open forum somewhere, I have to know what I'm talking about."

By her own admission, Tita went "from not knowing much to knowing a lot. If you like what you're doing, you put much passion into it. It becomes second nature. The problem was coming back to Manila and educating people."

Tita worked tirelessly, giving seminars to hundreds of people. "I wanted to change the concept that Filipinos know nothing about wine, because we have no tradition. Nobody had ever seen a vineyard here; I never did myself until I traveled. But Filipinos have an affinity for good things, the best things in life."

And then, the boom. "I couldn't believe it when the wine market exploded in the '90s," Tita marvels. "Before there were just three or four of us importers; now there are so many." Yuppies are her main market, Tita says. "They're buying wine because it's food, it's healthy, it's social and it's sophisticated."

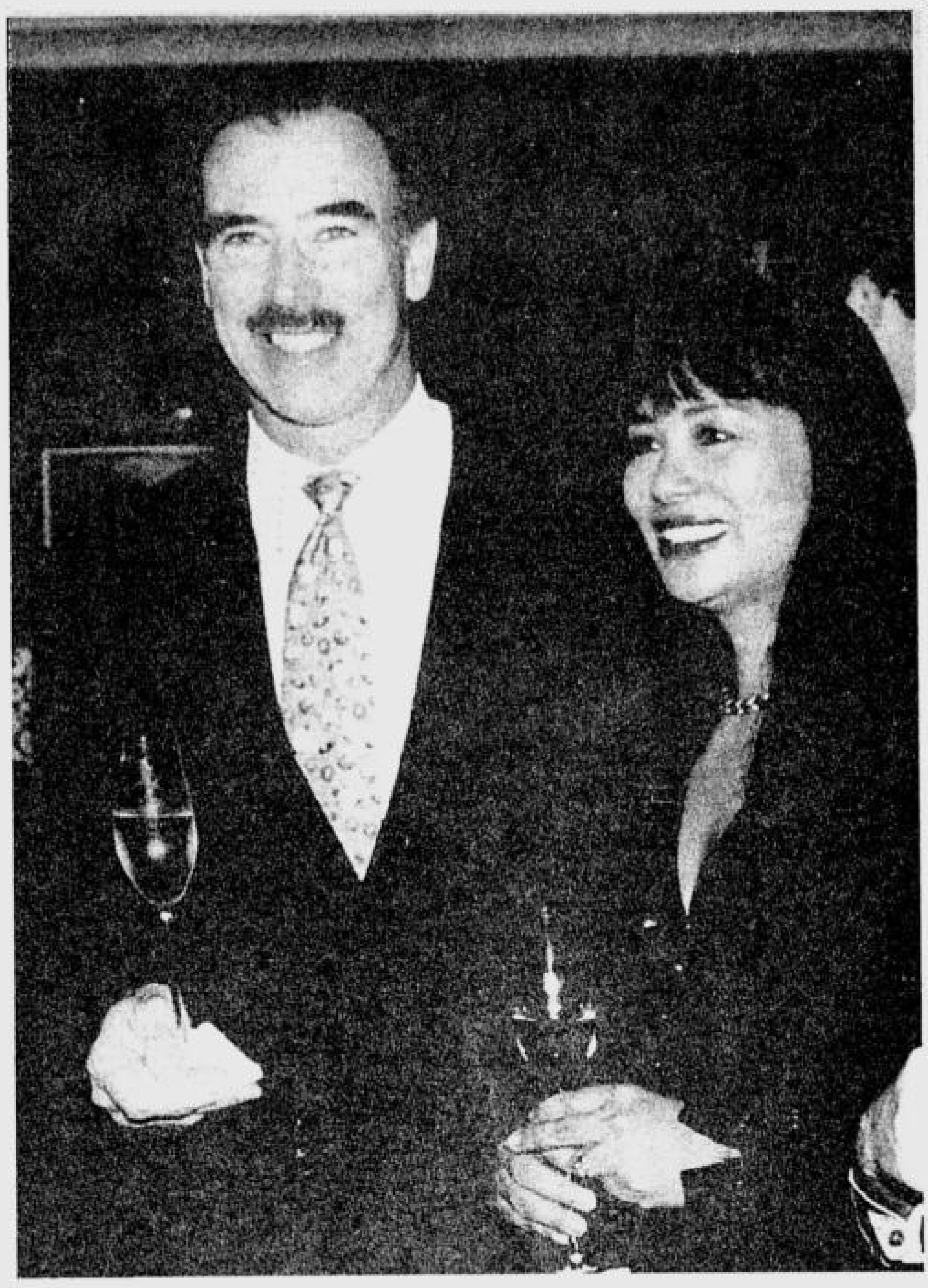
Today, the Philippines is no. 3 in Asia in terms of importation, with Japan leading the sipping. Also, thanks in part to the medical findings that red wine keeps cholesterol low and hypertension in check, reds are now outselling whites eight bottles to one. Tita even moderates a Wine Explorers' Club for yuppies aged 21-45 once a month, and has conducted seminars and wine tastings from Laoag to Davao.

To be sure, there are basic rules, like red with meat and white with fish, and traditional guidelines for a proper dinner, like progressing from the driest to the sweetest wine, or from the youngest to the oldest vintage. Tita likes some spontaneity, though. "I can pair salmon with a merlot or a pinot noir, and in these tropics we should be drinking a lot more chilled white and rosé. At the end of the day, though, it's what you want."

The former Tita Meneses did not know she was going to be an industry pioneer when she was growing up in Baguio, the only daughter in her family. Her mother came from a family of teachers, and her father worked with the Philippine National Railways. "I used to hate eating all those rhubarb pies in Baguio, and then several years later, on a trip to the vineyards, that's what they served us in Provence! It really comes round," she laughs.

Tita was an education student when she accompanied a girlfriend to PAL on a lark, and ended up being signed on as a stewardess. "Growing up in Baguio, you sometimes feel like you're in a cage, so you want to travel." Six months before her college graduation, she flew, and was flying for five years before she became Mrs. Trillo.

Both Tita and Anthony had previous marriages; Tita has three kids of her own, Anthony has four. "They all grew up together, but now they're all gone! One is married to a hotelier, two are chefs, another is in Singapore, another is a doctor in Phoenix. Claudine and Angela both do TV and commercial work." One daughter, Rosalie, died of cancer four years ago at 28, right after getting married; the family yacht in Subic, where the Trillos like to weekend and where Anthony runs the Crown Peak Hotel, bears her name. "We like going on the boat, and I cook on Sundays, which is the only time we can have civilized meals at home," says Tita, a member of the Chaine des Rotisseurs. "If I'm in the mood, I can cook real escargot, French style, or risotto and mushrooms. My idea of a fast meal is tofu and bean sprouts!" She travels three times a year, often to France, especially when it's harvest time, and Chile.



With Robert Michael Mondavi of the Robert Mondavi Winery, 1996

With Robert Drouhin of the Joseph Drouhin Winery, in Bordeaux, France, 2000

Is any child going to inherit all this? "I've been trying to bribe everybody," Tita laughs, "but at this point they have to like it, or it's too hard a sell."

Tita starts her day in the office at 9:30 a.m. and stops by one of the restaurants on the way home in the evenings. "I live and breathe wine," she laughs. "My life is full of cabernet!" That can be taken literally; for everyday wine, Tita is likely to have a couple of glasses of this grape varietal.

For the average consumer, Tita can offer everything from a good vin de table or table wine, priced at P175 a bottle, to varietals like cabernet and merlot at P350 to P400 a bottle, all the way up to the grand crus for which, in terms of price, "the sky's the limit. Just make sure you don't choose a cheap, fly-by-night label, or it will give you a bad headache!"

Tita doesn't dwell on getting credit for kickstarting the wine industry in the Philippines. Instead, she insists that the Filipino entrepreneur must start thinking global. "We can't be parochial; we have to open our eyes and embrace what's happening. We have first-class, world-class restaurants, so we need the best wines."

Ironically, despite the crisis, business is booming. "We've increased our market 30 percent over the last year, so there must be something right in our formula. Business is very good. If you're sad, you drink. If you're happy, you drink; either way you drink!"

The most important thing, however, is to enjoy yourself. "At the end of the day, wine is supposed to civilize your meal and build camaraderie among people. You unwind with wine. It's an adventure." Q

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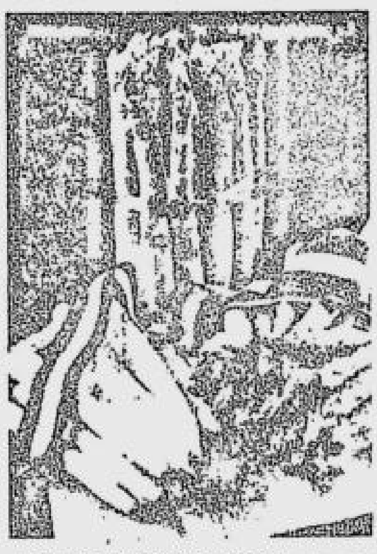


HEALTHY ASPARAGUS Fresh green and white asparagus flown in from France and the Netherlands are featured in Inter-Continental Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie's Asparagus Delights until May 24. *For more of This Week, see page 7.*

Growing Up

For Joel Toledo

Older brothers are meant to be lost;
innocently misplaced, like that other black sock
or Dad's car keys: tossed inside
the clothes hamper or on the sala table.
I only see shadows of him, hints
left in the refrigerator or the bathroom:
leftover coffee inside his Kermit the Frog mug,
cooling on the top shelf of the fridge,
or his boxer shorts pooling on the tiles of the bathroom.
Maybe it's the temptation of growing up
that allowed him to slip out of my hands,
like the strings of the kite we once attempted
to fly out in the backyard, or birthday balloons
set aloft on a windy day. I didn't mean
to let go, really, but the wind just managed
to snatch everything away.

Gabriela Lee

Binibini

Ang ganda mo.

Inantay ko nang matagal
ang pagbayad mo
kasi, gusto kong ako
ang mag-abot nito.

Para naman mahawakan ko
kahit man lang daliri mo.

Kaya nang sa wakas
ay igalaw mo
ang mapuputing braso,
pagkakataon na, akala ko.

Mangungulangot ka lang pala.

Nang muling sulyapan kita
ay sumundot-sundot
at dumudukot-dukot ka

sa iyong bulsa.

Miss, kapag nagbayad ka,
tulog ako—

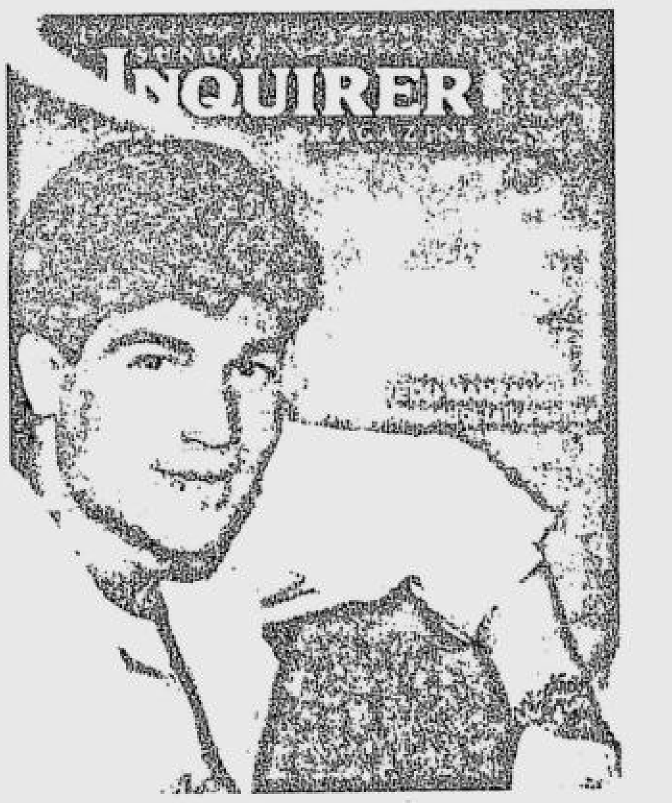
Ipaabot mo na lang sa iba.

Yol Jamendang

Backpages

Edu in Transition

Cover boy Edu Manzano was expanding his horizons back in 1987



Edu Manzano has come a long way from being just a pretty face in a magazine. The cover subject of SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE'S May 17, 1987 issue, Edu talked about his career as a TV host, a job which he would continue to excel at as the years passed. His show "Not So Late Night with Edu" was back then ABS-CBN's number one program, besting the station's other shows in over-all sales, perhaps foreshadowing Edu's later game-show success on "The Weakest Link." More than just a handsome host and a talented actor, he was also strict father to his then six-year-old son Lucky (now known as the hunky VJ Luis Manzano), whom he fondly called " the brightest presence" in his life. When his marriage to Vilma Santos fell apart, this matinee idol with the jaw-dropping good looks wasn't the type to shy away from falling in love again. "Dina and I are soul mates, that's what we call each other," he said matter-of-factly on his then relationship with actress Dina Bonnevie. If his multi-faceted career wasn't something to boast of yet, Edu also set his eyes on treading a new path: that of a politician. He would, of course, go on to be elected as Makati Vice-Mayor. Also in this issue were perspectives on Pinoy pop culture and Pinoy pop-rock.

Abigail Austriaco
and Mia Saavedra

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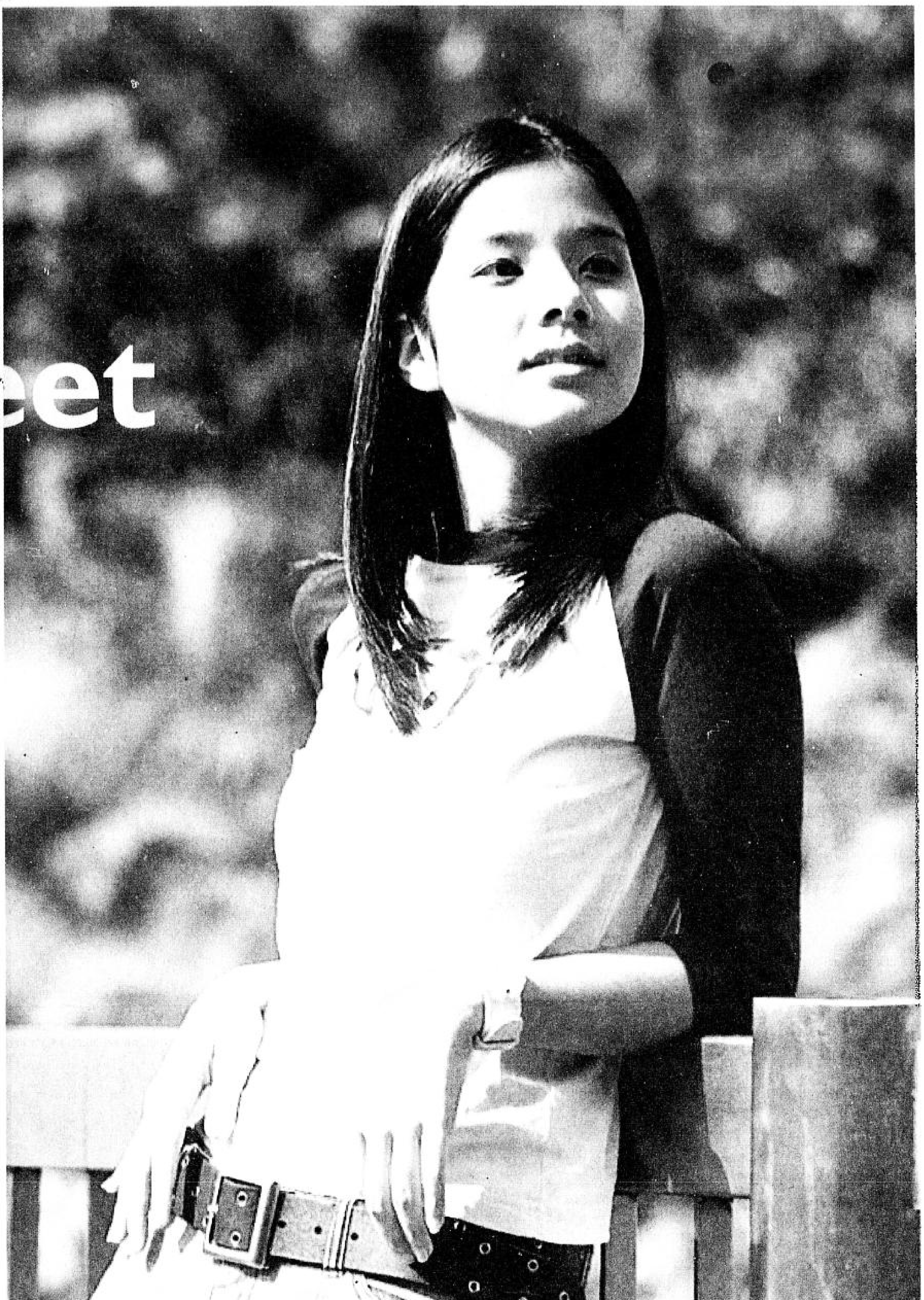
Seen on TV

By Nikki M. Meru
Photographs by Romy Homillada

Taking Her Sweet Time

Maxene Magalona is in no hurry; she's enjoying being a girl even as big showbiz breaks are coming her way


Hair and makeup by Ellie Go of Salon de Orient

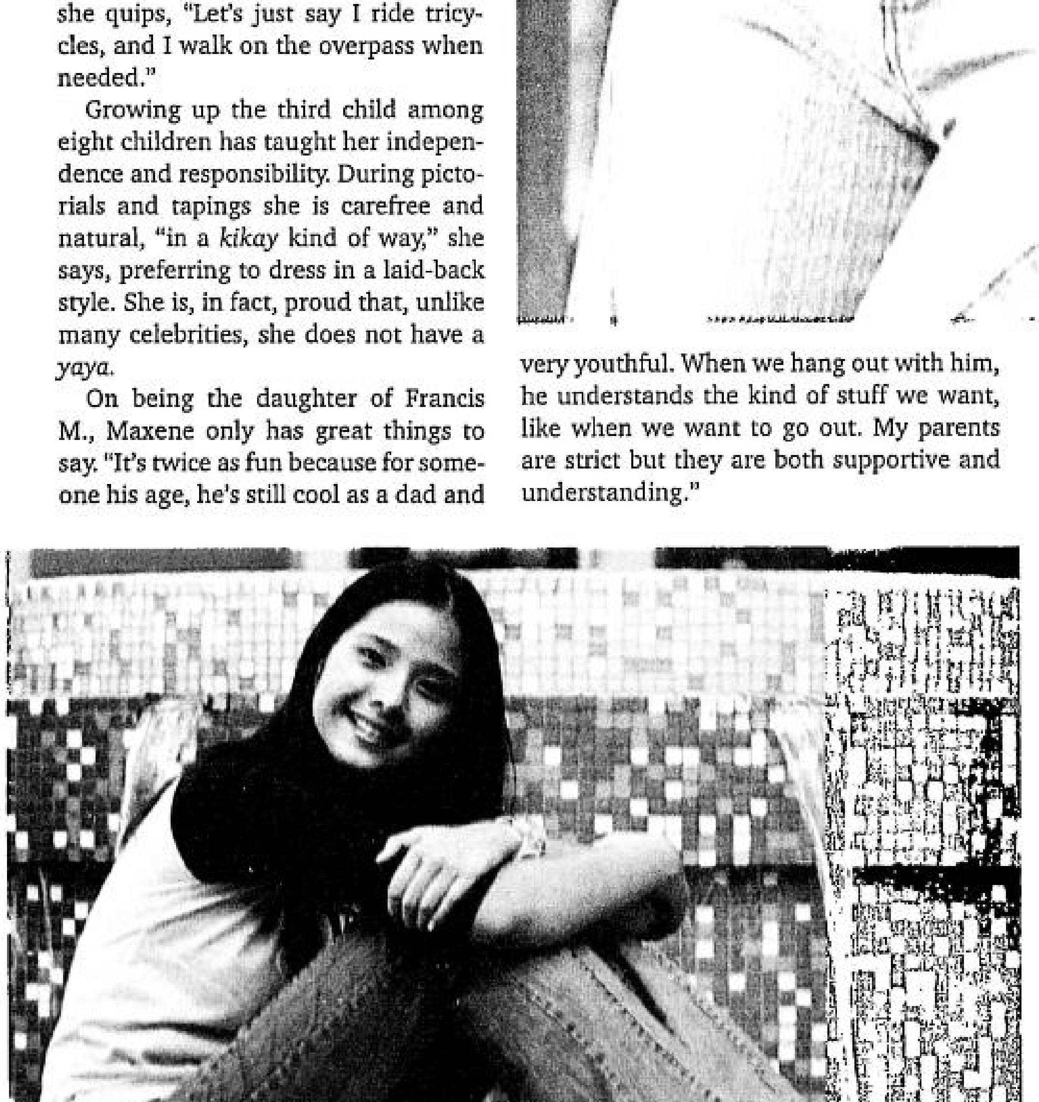
LITERALLY and figuratively, 16-year-old actress Maxene Magalona has a good head on her shoulders. Watching her on the television screen, one might think that the daughter of renowned local rapper Francis M. and Pia Arroyo and granddaughter of movie legends Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran might be a bratty starlet. But there is more to this level-headed young lady than the *colegiala* character she portrays in GMA 7's sitcom "Daddy-Di-Do-Du."

Maxene Magalona is a very real person, or in her own words, "normal." "A lot of people think of me as a spoiled daddy's girl type. Since my dad's an *artista*, a lot of people feel that I want to be given special treatment, star treatment. I want them to know that I'm this normal teenager who just wants to have fun."

Asked what she means by "normal," she quips, "Let's just say I ride tricycles, and I walk on the overpass when needed."

Growing up the third child among eight children has taught her independence and responsibility. During pictorials and tapings she is carefree and natural, "in a *kikay* kind of way," she says, preferring to dress in a laid-back style. She is, in fact, proud that, unlike many celebrities, she does not have a *yaya*.

On being the daughter of Francis M., Maxene only has great things to say. "It's twice as fun because for someone his age, he's still cool as a dad and very youthful. When we hang out with him, he understands the kind of stuff we want, like when we want to go out. My parents are strict but they are both supportive and understanding."



It might look like a complicated balancing act, but managing her time well to be able to comply with school requirements and perform efficiently at work is a piece of cake for Maxene. Contrary to what people her age claim, this incoming high school senior finds nothing hard about going to school, and she claims she has never used her career as an excuse not to do well in her studies. "You have to think straight, organize everything, and before you do anything you have to think about the consequences. In order to be well-balanced *naman kasi*, don't procrastinate. Do what you have to do *kaagad*, then things will go according to plan if you do it well."

Her greatest aspirations are realistic and simple: to finish school and be a successful broadcast journalist some day. That is why she sees her career as work and fun at the same time. "It's fun because I enjoy developing the talent that God has given me in front of the camera. I consider it work because it's like a training ground for me; there's discipline, and it affects the way I think. It completes me as a person and it's good that I'm starting young, so when I grow up to be a broadcast journalist it's going to be easier because I had the training."

Showbiz has taught Maxene how to act like a villain, a brat, a princess, or a sweetheart. But what makes her a real star is that she acts according to what the situation calls for. In school she's a student, minus the special treatment. At home she's a sister and a daughter, who gets her share of the chores, which she seems to love talking about the most because she says she learns so much from her siblings and parents. On screen she transforms into whoever the script requires her to be. Even when it comes to spending her earnings, she plays it smart. She knows when to splurge and when not to, although she admits to having a weakness for shoes.

The key to a balanced life, Maxene believes, is perfect timing, and because of it she's been getting the breaks. She was part of the power cast of Regal Entertainment's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, *"Mano Po,"* where she played opposite Cogie Domingo. She is presently doing another film with Cogie Domingo titled *"Anghel sa Lupa"* with Dina Bonnevie, directed by Jose Javier Reyes, while looking into other projects on the side.

This self-confessed hopeless romantic knows more about how to live life that most of us. Maxene is living in the moment, enjoying her youth, and knowing by heart that there is time for everything. "I just don't get it. When they're this age, they want to grow old *kaagad*, and when they're old, they want to go back to being young. I enjoy the things that are meant for me. I'm not in a hurry."

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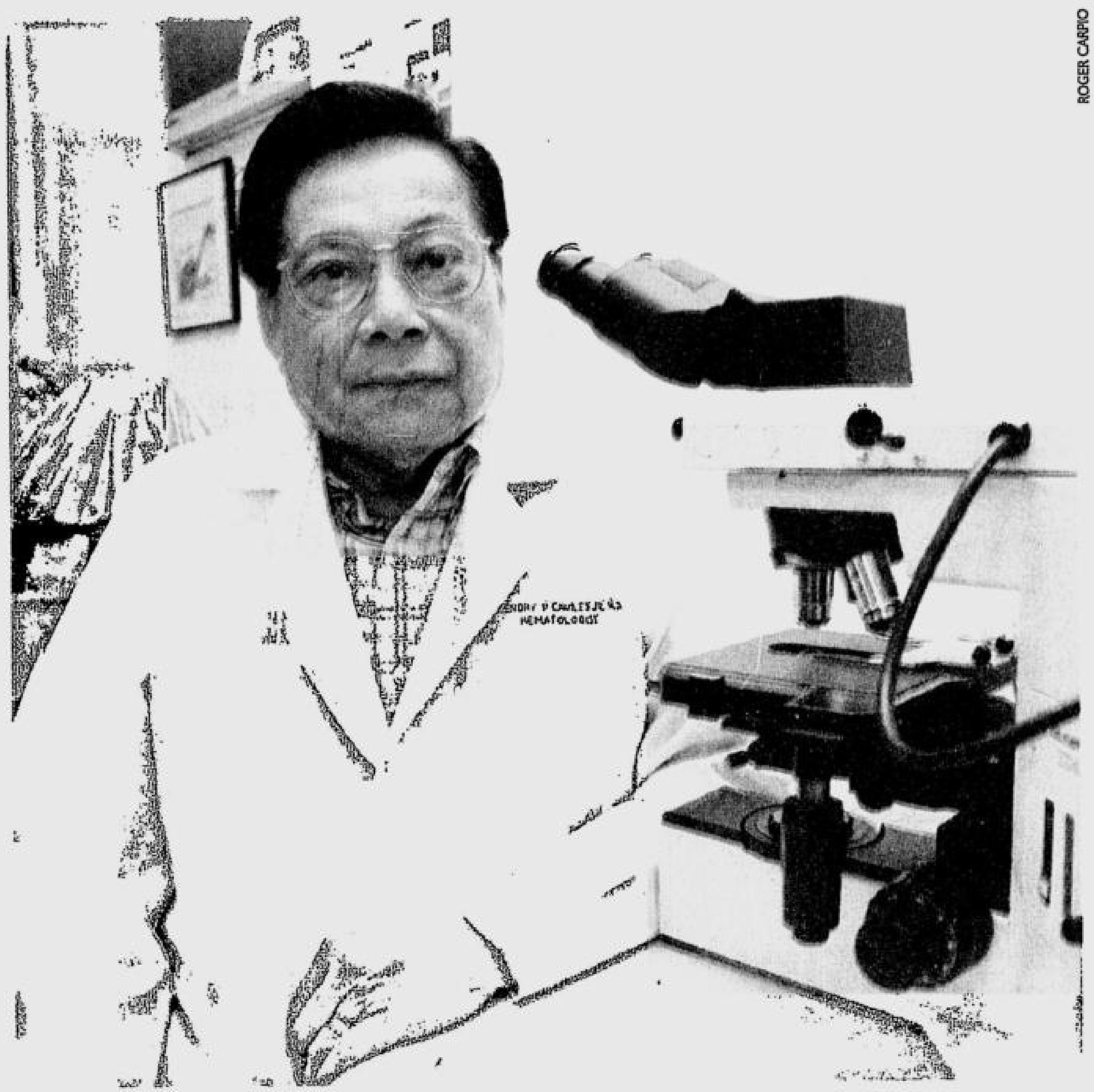
For a Cause

By Ed L. Santoalla

Service in the Blood


ENDRY P CAVILES JR MD
HEMATOLOGIST
ROGER CARPIO

UNOFFICIALLY, he is recognized in medical circles as the "Father of Hematology" in the Philippines. That's because Dr. Alendry P. Caviles Jr., president and lead hematologist of the Fe del Mundo Children's Medical Center in Banawe, Quezon City, has developed several protocols for the treatment of leukemia and other blood diseases, protocols that have been adopted by the medical community.

His skill is the product of years of specialization and study of blood and immune system-related disorders in several of the most prestigious clinics and hospital in the US. A "perpetual student" is how Dr. Merle Sacdalan, a pediatrician who has been working with Dr. Caviles since 1984, says of her idol and father-figure.

But more than his talent and erudition as a medical scientist, what has really distinguished Caviles, 76,is his soft spot for people who have been dealt the double whammy of poverty and disease.

Dr. Caviles was born the eldest of a brood of five in Manila on July 13, 1926. His parents were Alendry Caviles Sr. of Quiapo and Rizalina Plata of Caloocan. The elder Caviles was an optometrist who had an adventurous entrepreneurial streak, braving the wilds of Mindoro and Palawan to make and sell eyeglasses to people who needed them there. It was a lucrative trade, as there were no other optometrists serving those areas back then. Mother Rizalina was a housewife who instilled in her children the values of industry and thrift. She was also a helpful spirit who came to the aid of those in need without any prompting, a trait she probably took from her revolutionary clan, which was closely associated with Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan.

It was to the combination of the trailblazing spirit of his father and the philanthropic instincts of his mother that Dr. Caviles ascribes his penchant for rigorous scientific research and charitable service to the sick poor.

Sometime in the early '90s, while treating children afflicted with leukemia, Caviles and his team of hematologists noticed that a number of their wards were dying. Studying the profiles of their patients more closely, they found out that many of the leukemic children they were losing were from poor families.

"We were applying the same treatment to all our patients, no matter their economic status," says Caviles. "We only had one conclusion—the children were dying because their families did not have the money to sustain treatment."

Beyond being a pioneer in local hematology, Dr. Alendry Caviles has devoted himself to the treatment of indigent patients with blood-related ailments

With that conclusion, Caviles organized the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment or Life, a support group that provides financial, material and psycho-spiritual care to poor children afflicted with leukemia. Together with fellow doctors and philantrophic individuals and organizations, Caviles developed a program that encourages more fortunate people to adopt a leukemic child and provide him or her with money for chemotherapy and maintenance medicine.

Life's adopt-a-leukemic child program is already benefiting more than a hundred children. It is an initiative that has earned Caviles not only the eternal gratitude of the children and their families but also worldwide recognition. In 1997, Caviles made it to Readers' Digest Asia, which, in an article, had described him as a "hero of the world."

"He is larger than life. He has a big heart," says Venus Galiza, Life's accountant, of her boss. "When a patient is poor and has no money to pay, Dr. Caviles' response has always been, 'Whatever they can afford is fine.'"

"For Dr. Caviles, patients are always the priority; he is always very understanding and appreciative not only of their treatment but also their emotional states and psychological well-being," says Dr. Maja Ruiz, Caviles' chief hematology fellow. "It's a value he wants all of us who are training under him to develop and maintain."

This writer, a leukemic patient of Caviles, has personally experienced his kindness. Last year, a close friend of mine called to tell me she wanted to donate to Life. Dr. Caviles readily accepted, only to tell my donor-friend later that as the Life guidelines allowed "patient-directed assistance," he was earmarking the donation for my own treatment. My friend, of course, readily agreed, and it has been this that has sustained me through another year of expensive chemotherapy.

Caviles' soft spot for poor patients, whether children or adults, stems from his association with Dr. Fe del Mundo, founder of the Children's Medical Center and the country's first woman National Scientist. Caviles had also trained under Del Mundo, who had infused in him a strong sense of duty and of legacy in leaving something behind that is truly "worthy of the children of our land."

It is this strong service orientation and commitment to the poor that prodded Dr. Caviles to first accept the offer of Dr. Del Mundo for him to become president of the hospital she founded when she turned 90 last year. And to organize, one year later, a fund-raising campaign to help his now 91-year-old mentor and friend realize her lifelong dream of building a five-story annex for the exclusive use of charity patients, children and adults alike.

"We need to constantly knock on the doors and the heart of those who are in a position to help," Dr. Caviles says. "It is only through this that we are able to sustain our operations as a private hospital run by a not-for-profit foundation."

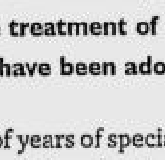
For all the demands of his medical practice (he is consultant to St. Luke's, PGH and the National Kidney Transplant Institute) and charitable work, Dr. Caviles still finds time to engage in his other passions, which are singing, dancing, writing and collecting artworks. His musical bent, he believes, he inherited from his grandmother, who served as a conductor of the Philippine Constabulary band during the early days of American colonial rule. His preferences are the classics, Broadway musicals and ballads. He also likes dining out.

But he enjoys doing all of these most in the company of his wife, a doctor herself who has long since stopped practising to be at the side of her busybody husband, with whom he has had an only child, a daughter. She now has children of her own who Dr. Caviles visits every time he goes to the US to attend a conference or spend the Christmas holidays.

By any standard Dr. Caviles is a fortunate man, given a successful career that has made him in demand as a consultant for several of Metro Manila's leading hospitals. Dr. Caviles enjoys good fortune and a good life, tempering it with the wisdom of age.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote



The Berks of Jesus

Being attached to Jesus therefore does not consist primarily in getting ritually baptized, it is being detached from the compulsive desire for everything that is not God

"BERKS," in today's youth jargon, simply means barkada. A *barkada* is a "comfort zone" where a person claims he feels he belongs, where he says he does not have to wear masks to hide or defend himself. With his *barkada*, he feels comfortable the way he is—sinner or saint, where he is accepted without being interrogated, probed, judged and condemned. Among his berks, he feels he is welcomed, understood, loved—and helped to become a better person, even the best he could ever be. "But first, a berks must decide to remain attached or plugged and switched in, like an electric bulb, to the power source, or attached like a branch to the vine," said a berks elder.

When you feel you are at your worst, that is the time when you need the berks perhaps. Me, I felt I was at my worst when, like the Apostles during the Passion and like Thomas the Doubter and the Emmaus Disciples after the Resurrection, I began to lose faith in everything which until that moment had made sense to me. I felt like giving up and dropping out.

Six persons I will never forget saved me from that moment: Alfonso, Tito, Cynthia, Elena, James and Bruno. Bruno was a brother-priest, James, an Anglican pastor, Alfonso, an Iglesia ni Cristo *manggagawa*, Tito, a Methodist minister, Cynthia, a Baptist Christian, and Elena, a cancer patient. They have been friends of mine for decades.

In those moment of darkness when I felt most broken, ugly and estranged, these "magnificent six" came separately from out of the blue—like angels—to listen to me, pray with me and talk to me into "grafting myself back to the Vine," they said. They spoke to me about Jesus. They all became Jesus to me, each in his (her) own way. They led me back to my dreams, to my self-worth, to my faith in the value of my work—and life.

Reflection

John 15:1-17 is all about "being attached to Jesus"—as branches to a vine. We Christians believe that we "get attached" to Jesus for the first time through the sacrament of baptism. That indelible mark of the sacrament, Catholics believe, remains forever.

But Jesus in today's gospel was not lecturing on the dogma and ritual of baptism. He was speaking about the spirituality of union with him. If you want to remain attached to me, he said, make up your mind. I demand total attachment. In verse 13, he even dared his followers to go all the way to putting their lives on the line to obey his command. "My commandment is this," Jesus said. "Love one another just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them." This is the meaning of total attachment to Jesus.

Being attached to Jesus is not only being with Jesus but being Jesus as a friend, and becoming Jesus in the process. As St. Paul said. "It is no longer I who live but Christ lives within me." (Gal. 2:20)

Being attached to Jesus therefore does not consist primarily in getting ritually baptized, and in officially belonging to a particular church. It is not necessarily memorizing the Bible, saying the right prayers and using the right words, the right gestures and the right theology. Being attached to God is being detached from the compulsive desire for everything that is not God: property, pleasure, prestige, power.

Being attached to Jesus is not doing something but being with Jesus and becoming Jesus in the way I think, feel, act and react—and in the way I live—as a "berks of Jesus."

Survivors' Tales

By Fe B. Zamora

Painting for Peace

FE ZAMORA

Tausug artist Rameer Tawasil comes to terms with his being a Muslim through his art, and uses his canvases as a statement against war

RAMEER TAWASIL was only 5 when Jolo was turned into a bloody battleground between the Tausug mujahedeens and soldiers in February, 1974.

"My sister carried me piggy-back style, and we just ran," Rameer recalled. He saw bullets whizzing by and bombs raining upon the Jolo landscape. He remembered tongues of flames leaping wildly, lapping at a wide swath of homes, including the Tawasil residence in the port area.

The Tawasils fled Jolo along with hundreds of Joloanos who were picked up by a passing Japanese cargo ship and unloaded in Zamboanga City. Rameer settled in Zamboanga City with his other siblings. He mixed with Christian children, and lived a life as normal and as peaceful as the environs could provide. But the trauma of that fateful day now known as the Burning of Jolo haunted him.

Not in the way you'd think it would be, though. Rameer did not join the rebels, although an uncle, Al Caluang, carved a legend as one of the Moro National Liberation Front's staunchest generals. (The famous Al Caluang is now the mayor of Kalingalan Caluang town in Sulu). Neither would he join the government, as did his father, the late Hadji Hassan Tawasil, who became presidential technical adviser on Muslim affairs during the Marcos years.

Like most people in Jolo, and Mindanao, or throughout the world in general, Rameer only wants one small thing: peace.

He expressed this yearning in his first one-man exhibit "Rameer Tawasil" at the lobby of Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City. The exhibit opened last February as part of "Dia de Zamboanga," a three-day festival to mark the 66th foundation of the city.

"The military cannot solve the problem in Jolo. The rebellion is not the solution either. And while they are out there fighting, the civilians are suffering," Rameer said.

This sentiment is expressed visually in the "Peace Vendor" series. An ageing woman, her face lined with suffering and eyes downcast, carries a basket on her head. Inside the basket is a dove, trussed up unmercifully and seemingly dead.

The delicate brush strokes in ink and watercolor highlights Rameer's personal feelings for the Moro homeland. The painter, in fact, is crying out: "There is so much suffering already. Who wants peace? And who is the victim?"

Or the Moro warrior series. Done in bold strokes in somber shades of red, blue, gray, colors of maroon, the series features a kris and an image of an adult male, head shaven and eyes livid with rage. Instead of a body, however, the head is linked to a human skeletal frame.

"He is the walking dead," Rameer said. The Moro warrior is "*sabil*," a man who is bound for martyrdom, or death for a cause, he explains. "A *sabil* is not a *juramentado* (a person who runs amok). He is not a terrorist. *Sabil* is martyrdom and can only be justified when a person has been subjected to extreme humiliation, or when his land was taken away from him," Ramer explained.

A Muslim who has decided to be a "*sabil*" has to undergo a ritual normally given to a cadaver before a burial. Except that this time, the cadaver is a breathing, living human being who would even walk towards his target—the person who insulted him or the persons who grabbed his land—without injuring the innocent women and children.

But for so many years, Rameer could not come face-to-face with his culture. "I did portraits, landscapes, flowers, anything but the Muslim issue." Every now and then, he would encroach on Muslim social realism, but would just back out as quickly, like he had touched a sore spot within himself. To this day, Rameer admits he had not really talked much about what happened to him on that horrible day 29 years ago.

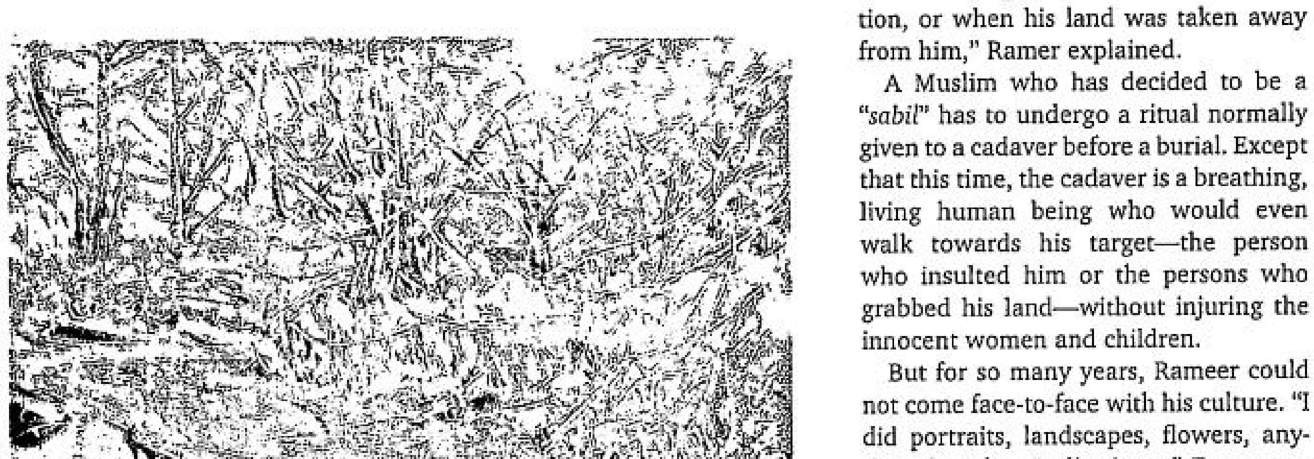
Perhaps, he says, his paintings is his own way of downloading the bad memories, his own catharsis. Perhaps, his own mind had been pushing him to let go of the bad memories all these years. While in the elementary grades, Rameer won various art contests in Zamboanga City, a feat that he would repeat while in high school at the Hadji Butu School of Arts and Trades in Jolo, the alma mater of celebrated Joloano artist Abdulmari Imao. In college, Rameer spurned the Fine Arts to pursue a BS in Architecture at Western Mindanao State University. Even then, he continued with his painting, teaching himself various techniques but carefully eschewing anything Muslim on canvas.

"I think it's my coming to terms with my being a Muslim. I could not run away from my culture. Instead of trying to evade the issue, I have decided to confront it," Rameer said. "I am a Muslim. I know what it's like to be a victim. I share their feelings, but I have a different way of expressing my feelings," he stresses. These feelings he has learned to articulate best on canvas. And how.

Noteworthy

Late Bloom

Artist Ivee Olivares-Mellor may have discovered painting as a second career, but she's making up for lost time with works of gorgeous color, and by making her presence felt in the eclectic London art scene



A GLORIOUS dance of lines and colors greets the viewers' eyes and minds, the brushtrokes in the landscapes of young artist Ivee Olivares-Mellor. Loosely based on the countryside of West Sussex, England, where she currently resides, these are Ivee's interpretations of the rich subject, vehicles for her own introspection. To the viewer, the results are organic, happy lines and washes of color so exquisite, you can almost see her standing in a field of flowers, painting happily away. "Well, not quite," laughs Ivee. "Actually, it's too cold most of the time!"

Although she had always been interested in art, Ivee came late to the canvas, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, and later working in cultural affairs for PCIBank. "The bank had a considerable collection, so that's when I got really interested." Since she had never painted before, she began by taking evening art lessons, and eventually realized how serious she was about the career veer. "I did not choose it," she says of painting. "It chose me." At a time when London was booming as an art and cultural center, she entered the Chelsea College of Art and Design, while also participating in and organizing group exhibitions. "I tried everything, including conceptual art and that whole Brit art movement," she recalls. There, too, she met her husband, lawyer Ian Mellor, whome she married three years ago. Ivee graduated with honors from Chelsea and got the opportunity to mount a solo show at the Hamilton Place in Park Lane, Mayfair, London. "That was nerve-wracking," recalls the diminutive artist. "I didn't know anybody there!" But the show sold quite well, and more London projects are planned in the future.

Ivee's first exhibitions on home turf were actually a solo at Casa San Miguel in Zambales and a joint show with cousin and fellow artist Plet Bolipata last April. "Scribbled Landscapes," which opened yesterday at The Drawing Room in Makati, is her first Manila show in nine years.

Ivee now paints from her home studio, and revels in the quaint and peaceful beauty that surrounds her. She strongly recommends an art education for anybody who chooses to pick up the brush, whether early or later in life. "It's good to be with like-minded people, and teachers who don't tell you what to do, but who bring out what's in you.

"With art, everything fits," says Ivee. "I just took it naturally. It satisfies me on different levels: intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. It is therapeutic, escapist, intellectual, and passionate at the same time."

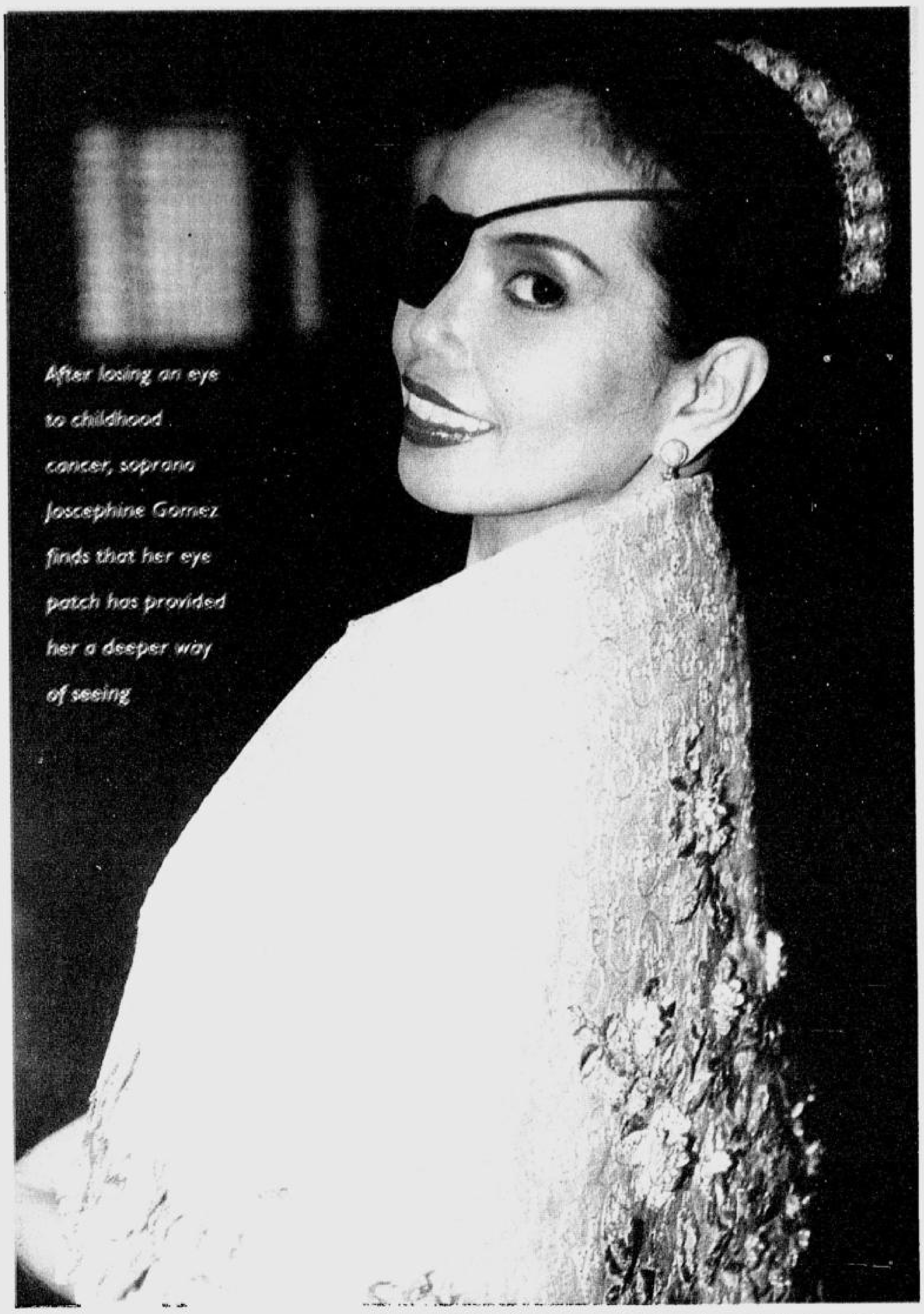
ABH

"Scribbled Landscapes" will run until June 4 at The Drawing Room's Big Space, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City.

First Person

By Joscephine Gomez

The Way I See It



After losing an eye to childhood cancer, soprano Joscephine Gomez finds that her eye patch has provided her a deeper way of seeing

"WHAT else don't you do?" people are apt to ask me when they learn that, aside from being a classical singer, I am also into sales, marketing and public relations and do voice therapy and rehab. In my younger years, I've also worked as a reporter, a music critic and a magazine columnist. As a student at the University of the Philippines, I've produced some weekly shows and anchored a radio program in the early '90s.

But all that pales compared to what I consider my greatest achievement: having survived cancer these past 48 years.

It all started when I was 2, when I complained of pain and blurring vision in my right eye. Papa (the late Frankie Gomez, one of the pioneers of the Philippine broadcast industry) brought me to the late Dr. Jesus Tamesis, who was then starting to gain fame. My father was told that I had retinoblastoma, one of two eye cancers and the most prevalent cancer in children. The disease, he learned, often results in death, often preceded by total blindness. I was told that my father was in tears upon signing the waiver for the radical surgery of my right eye that went beyond the simple removal of the cornea. The surgery, although skillfully performed by Dr. Tamesis, was no guarantee that I would survive and that my other eye would not lose its vision.

My maternal grandfather walked on his knees in Quiapo church to pray for me. Although I don't share his belief in graven images, his prayers were partly answered. I survived, although I lost my right eye.

Despite having impaired vision, I managed to become a consistent honor student at the Sta. Catalina College, even becoming undefeated champion in the "Uncle Bob's Lucky 7 Club" spelling and math contest on Channel 7. Still, my life as a child wasn't easy. Kids in school and in the neighborhood would taunt and call me names because of my covered eye. I would be aghast not so much by what they said but because I saw no reason for the fuss; I didn't consider my condition a handicap at all. The truth is, to this day, I have never felt bad about the loss of my eye.

While both my parents were musical—Papa composed songs and produced and directed musical programs on radio and television—it was from Mommy, a famous radio singer known on radio as Corazon de Jesus and a scholar of *Maestra* Isang Tapales, that I first learned bel canto singing. Papa, however, taught me my first *kundiman* at age 4.

My mother's attitude towards me was more of indifference, even when I complained of pain and discomfort, especially when I had asthma attacks. In a confrontation we had when I was 26, she revealed that she had steeled herself against the possibility of losing me because of the possible recurrence of retinoblastoma. "I had to harden my heart," she said.

Having limited peripheral vision, I eventually got used to minor accidents as a child. I have a big cut on my wrist from when I stumbled on a broken bottle when I was 5. In college, the rear tire of a bus ran over my ankle.

Despite the patch I wore over my right eye, I had more suitors than most of my classmates. In fact, my first boyfriend was a bodybuilder. Most of my suitors would tell me that my defective eye did not lessen my appeal; others said it was sexy.

I had thought in my youth that my impaired vision would prevent me from doing some things, but I was later proven wrong. I managed to do a lot of things. Being a tour guide in the '70s was one of them, despite my initial impression that only perfect beauties would be acceptable in the trade.

Although I loved to sing as a child, I did not aspire to sing professionally, thinking that my eye patch might turn off the audience. But before I even got to know the results of the UP College Admissions Tests, my boyfriend strongly encouraged me to join him in auditioning for the UP Concert Chorus. To my surprise, Prof. Rey Paguio, who administered the entrance tests, accepted me. To this day I thank him for contributing so much to my self-esteem and getting me started on the road to music.

Another thing I never imagined would happen was my representing the country in an international event. I responded to calls to audition for lead roles in seven operas. I auditioned for the role of Gilda in Verdi's "Rigoletto" and Susanna in Mozart's *"Le Nozze di Figaro."* The auditions were held by the Russian Embasssy in Manila and the tapes sent to the Russian Ministry of Culture. After a few weeks, I learned that I was chosen to play Susanna. This was followed by shows in Brunei Darussalam and in Israel.

Although great things happened despite my impaired eyesight, Papa always dreamed of seeing me with normal vision again. The first time he set aside money for my reconstructive surgery despite his facing hard times, the money was misused by some ill-meaning relative. He never had the chance again.

From then on, I knew that my very costly reconstructive surgery was something I would have to do on my own or with the help of some Good Samaritan. So far, I've had the first in a series of reconstructive surgeries, but the enormous medical expenses have since prevented me from continuing.

I must admit that not all people respond positively to my condition. When I asked a director of a zarzuela production at Tanghalang Pilipino whether I would be allowed to perform with an eye patch, he flatly said no. Another time, I offered to co-anchor a program on election returns on one TV station, but I was told that instead of people paying attention to the news, they would be distracted by my eye patch.

Rather than brood about such adversity, I focus on the seminar-workshops and lectures that I continue to develop and present, as well as my other baby--the Retinoblastoma Foundation of the Philippines, the first and only foundation in the country dedicated to research and information dissemination on the most prevalent cancer in Filipino children and giving assistance to them.

In the meantime, I continue to wear my black eye patch to work. For my performances I wear designer eye patches that match the gowns I wear, some of them designed by couturiers like Renee Salud, Inno Sotto, Lito Perez, Oskar Peralta and John Abul.

Sometimes perceived as a symbol of something imperfect in me, my eye patch remains for me a reminder of my Creator's goodness. Q

Poetry

Uniberso

Sa unang pagpintig ng pulso sa puson,
Pulang araw ang buhay sa uniberso ng laman.

Iikutan ang atom ng lakas ng electron
At didilat ang nucleus ng musmos na dugo.

Sisipa ng sigla ang mitochondrion
At kuyom na kamao ang bagsik ng lyzosome.

Sasabay sa indak at himig ng Dibdib
Ang mumunting sayaw ng mga chromosome.

Anupa't kung may Hiblang humaba o kumapal,
O kaya naman ay may Hiblang lumabis;

Tutulis ang mga ngipin at hahaba ang kuko.
Lalapad ang braso at balahibo ay damo.

Sa dikta ng Hibla ay susunod ang hanay
Ng osteocyte, fibrocyte at adiposa.

Lalapatan ng laman ang binhi ng paghinga
Sa diperensasyon ng utak, baga at atay.

Saka unang iluluwal sa liwanag ang baguntao
At iiyak sa unang paghaplos ng simoy.

Saka unang huhugot ng hangin ang bronchus
Na wala pang kilalang buntung-hininga.

Madulas ang pagyakap ng pericardium sa sentro
Ng mekanikal na pandama ng kaluluwa.

Ihehele ng duyan ang pagsibol ng puso
At duduyan ang dugo sa fossa ovalis

Na foramen ovale sa dibdib ng fetus.
Titingala ang erythrocyte sa anulus ovalis

Na naglahong pintig ng septum primum ng embryo.
Na kapwa nagmula sa septum secondum.

Anupa't sa kalawakan ng lupa at dagat,
Ang sayaw ng paghinga ay sa tambol lamang ng cardium.

Sa libong spermatozoang sumisid sa ovum,
Perlas tayong umahon na walang kawangis.

Ang pulang araw sa simula ng uniberso ng laman
Ay pipintig ng liwanag sa angking sandali.

At sa kalawakan ng huklubang uniberso ng mga tala
Ay may binhi ng salaysay ang ating kaluluwa.

Jose Jason L. Chancoco

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

This Week

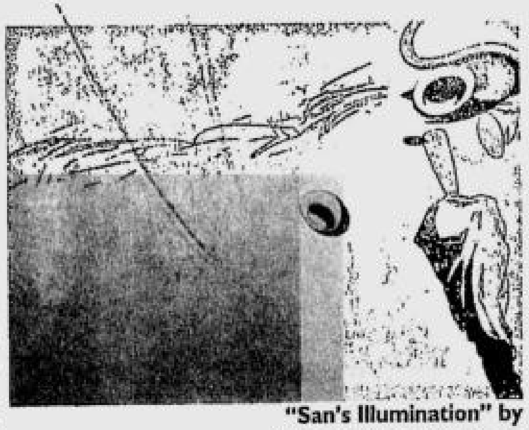
Art

Dwellings, a two-man exhibit by Wire Tuazon and Kelye Miranda, at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall A until today.

Tints and Tones, a group exhibit by members of the Art Discovery and Learning Foundation Inc., at the Vargas Museum, UP Diliman until May 27.

The Wild Touch, an exhibit of Dionesio Gonzales' oil on canvas paintings, until May 31 at the Food and Art Galerie, 12/F, GTY Tower, Ayala Avenue cor. Dela Rosa Street, Makati City.

Social Reality, Kiko Escora's large-scale diptychs and other pieces on the surreal and dark nuances in human condition, until May 31 at the SM Megamall Art Center.


"San's Illumination" by Pablo Biglang-awa Jr., on view at the Mag:net Gallery

Dualities, an exhibit of abstracts by Pep Manalang at Finale Art Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A from Mat 20-June 1.

Breathing Space, An exhibit of abstract landscapes by Jemina at the Big & Small Art Co., SM Megamall from May 21 to June 2.

Green Manga, Pablo Biglang-awa Jr.'s first solo show depicting images from *manga* or Japanese comics and animé characters in acrylic, until June 3 at the Mag:net Gallery, The Loop, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Street, QC.

Scribbled Landscapes, exhibit of landscapes on acrylic by Ivee Olivares-Mellor, loosely based on the English countryside as well as on memories of her home province of Zambales, until June 4 at The Drawing Room, G/F, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

"Moved" by Kiko Escora, on exhibit at the SM Megamall Art Center

Music

The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and The San Miguel Master Chorale perform classical arrangements and premiere new musical of classic, standard and contemporary love songs for orchestra and choir in a concert dubbed as ***Lambingan***. It will be held at the Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel, Intramuros, Manila on May 24 at 7 p.m. as part of the Music on the Walls concert series. Admission is free.

Thirty young men and women reveal the extraordinary stories of their lives through a unique brand of dance, movement and music dubbed as ***Sigaw!*** at the Meralco Theater, May 24 at 7:30 pm. Sales proceeds will go to CFC Gawad Kalinga, a work-with-the-poor program of Couples for Christ. For ticket sales and inquiries, call Timi Idioma at 746-4265, 0917-8314846 or Bert Patolot at 0917-8991954.

UP High School Class '68 will present **Happy Together**, featuring the Spirit of 67 in a benefit concert for the University of the Philippines Integrated School on June 6, 7:30 p.m. at UP's Bahay ng Alumni. Proceeds from the concert will be used for the restoration and an improved admissions policy for UPIS. Tickets at P500 are available at the Chocolate Kiss Café, UP's Bahay ng Alumni and at the Urban Spa, Shangri-La Mall. For inquiries, call Donna at 687-4692.

Cinema

If you missed the first screening of the digital film **Angels** on Cinema One (Channel 22, SkyCable), you can still catch the upgraded version (in terms of video quality) on May 21 at 9:30 a.m., on the same channel. "Angels" is a true-to-life story of a blind couple's journey. It tells their story from the point of view of their 10-year-old boy who guides them through the streets of Third-World Manila in search of a normal family life. It stars multi-awarded actors Gina Alajar and Nonie Buencamino. Child actor Angelo Caangay gives an outstanding performance as Jonathan. Ellen Ongkeko directs from the script of Ricardo Lee.

Food

Casa Armas journeys to Barcelona with ***Zarzuela de Mariscos*** as the featured dish in this month's Spanish Culinary Journey postcard. Zarzuela de Mariscos is a sea of flavors in tomato broth, gulf fish, salmon, clams, shrimp and mussels. Get a free soup with every order of the dish upon presentation of your postcard. For reservations, call 897-3605 (Jupiter branch), 687-3370 (Ortigas) or 757-4961 (Greenbelt 3).

Delight in the best and **popular Chinese dishes** at The Richmonde Hotel's Exchange Bar every lunchtime. Savor authentic Chinese recipes like dim sum favorites, choice barbecue dishes and noodle selections from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For inquiries, call 638-7777 loc. 3408.

Atbp

The **Philippine Anti-Aging Medical Society Inc.** will hold its second scientific convention at the Megatrade Hall 2, 5/L, SM Megamall on May 24, 1-6 p.m. This is in line with the three-day festival, A World of Beauty, where experts and consultants on the different aspects of health and beauty will also be on hand to share their knowledge, products and services. For details, call 840-2128 or 0917-8482675.

Filipinas Heritage Library will host **Toys and Stories**, a storytelling session with a healthy dose of art projects, on May 24, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be a session on making toys, from picture frames to ref magnets. It is open to kids 3 to 10 years old. Admission is P150 inclusive of materials. For details, call 892-1801.

A **diving photo competition** has been launched by the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving and the Dept. of Tourism in coordination with the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation. The competition will serve as a preparatory activity to the proposed creation of a complete website for diving aimed at promoting the country as one of the richest repositories of diverse marine life. The contest is open to local and foreign photographers and has two categories—underwater and topside. The entries for underwater must be taken from April 2002 to June 2003 while topside must be from May to June 2003. There is no limit to the number of entries. Entry size is 8 x 10. Deadline is July 4, 6 p.m. at PC-SSD. Judging will be on July 18. For inquiries, call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

Announcing the 18th run of **Tapping the Creative Universe** (TCU) designed and facilitated by Jim Paredes. This is a 6-session walk-the-edge workshop that will help identify self-imposed blocks in your thinking, guide you through unblocking your innate creativity, joy and energy, and introduce personal practices to keep you creative for life. Workshop will be on May 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, and 30, 7-9 p.m. at the Rockwell Club, Amorsolo Street. Fee is P5,000 inclusive of snacks and drink. For reservations, call Ollie Gueta at 426-5375 or 929-0230.

Dansa Studio is still accepting enrollees for its third **summer dance workshop**. Dance and fitness classes are offered for children and adults. For details, visit the studio at the 4/F, Manna II Building, 33 V. Luna Road, QC or call 436-6175.

The Carousel Court, 2/F of Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang will host a **Garden Wedding Fair** on May 20-31. The event will bring together select quality suppliers and wholesalers of flowers and other garden materials from Davao, Baguio, Cavite, Laguna, and Iloilo. There will also be a bridal gown display by designers Tristan Yap and Jonathan Pagaduan. For details, call 820-7879 or 820-1570.

The Miriam College Chi Rho Champions and the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association (MMCAA) invite all alumni, family members and friends to participate in the **1st Chi Rho Cup** on May 29, at the Aoki Course, Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estates in General Trias, Cavite. The event will benefit the Miriam College Endowment Fund. The tournament is open to both male and female golfers. The tournament format will be team scramble, best score. Registration starts at 6 a.m. and shotgun start will be at 8:30 a.m. Non-golfer alumni are also invited to join the fun and hold mini class or *barkada* reunions, sight-see or avail of spa and massage services that will be provided on that day. For inquiries and reservations, call Pinky Medina or Florence Palma at the Miriam College External Affairs Office at 580-5400 to 29, extension 1186 or 433-5337.

Graduates of the series of basic and advanced photography workshops by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will meet on May 24-25 at the Fort Santiago. There will be photo contests, exhibits, games, seminars, fashion shooting, street party, festival dancing and other surprises. For details, call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

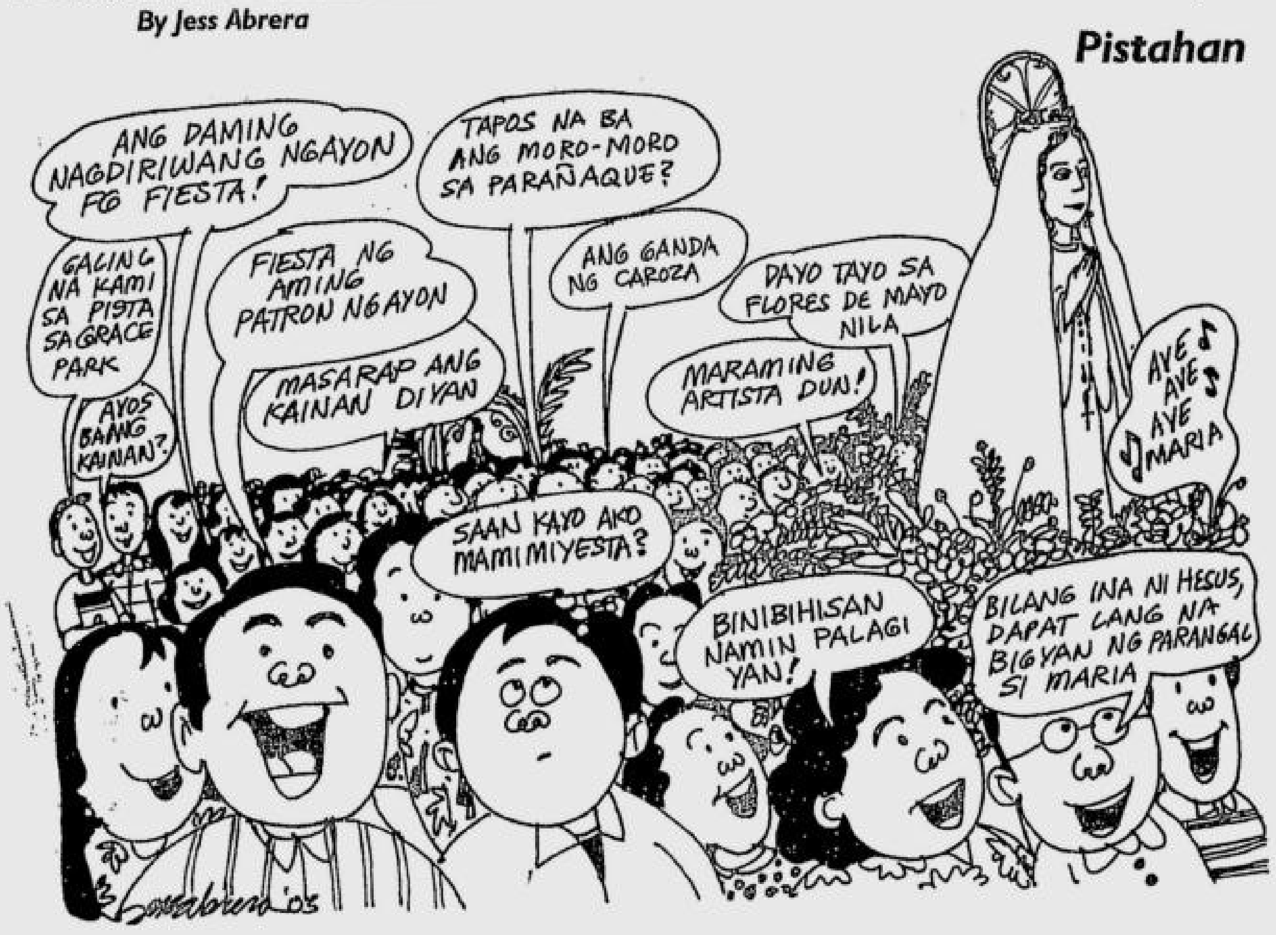
Jim Paredes holds "Tapping the Creative Universe" at The Rockwell Club

Explore St. Paul's Underground River in The Legend Hotel's PAX Tour in Palawan

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Pistahan


ANG DAMING NAGDIRIWANG NGAYON FG FIESTA!
GALING NA KAMI SA PISTA SA GRACE PARK
AYOS BANG KAINAN?
FIESTA NG AMING PATRON NGAYON
MASARAP ANG KAINAN DIYAN
TAPOS NA BA ANG MORO-MORO SA PARAÑAQUE?
ANG GANDA NG CAROZA
SAAN KAYO AKO MAMIMIYESTA?
DAYO TAYO SA FLORES DE MAYO NILA
MARAMING ARTISTA DUN!
AVE AVE AVE MARIA
BINIBIHISAN NAMIN PALAGI YAN!
BILANG INA NI HESUS, DAPAT LANG NA BIGYAN NG PARANGAL SI MARIA
Abrera '03

For this week's bands and schedules call:

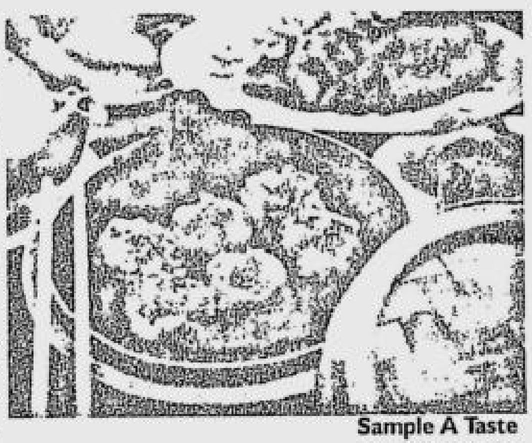
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

Mega Events Inc. presents **Beauty from Within and Outside**, an exhibit from May 23-25 at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall. Cosmetic surgeons will give free seminars and consultations. Also, demonstrations and sampling of an array of beauty products and services will be available during the exhibit. For details, call 728-8845 or 726-4128 to 30.

Mothers, kids and teenagers are invited to join the **Mommies Art Club** (MWF, 1-3 p.m.), **Kids on Cartooning Club** (Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.) and **Teenage Art Explosion Club** (Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.). Free introductory sessions will be held on May 18 and 25. For details, call 724-2366.

Multi-awarded writer Jun Lana is offering a **free intensive writing clinic for TV and film** for 8 Saturdays from July 19 to Sept. 6. It will comprise of lectures by other established writers, open forums with well-known professionals from various areas in the industry, hands-on training and a produced teleplay as the culminating activity. Open to ages 18-30, requirements are a letter of intent written in English or Tagalog and a bio-data to be emailed to lanaworkshops@yahoo.com. Deadline for submission is June 8. Only five applicants will be chosen.


Sample A Taste of China at the Richmonde Hotel

Viva Mineral Water presents a series of concerts and fashion shows called **Viva!cious: The Shape and Sound of Summer**. Catch performances from Nina, Malik, the AKA Fellas, Karylle and the Manoeuvres, and the latest in fashion from Levi's and Dockers at Alabang Town Center on May 30, 7 p.m., and The Village in Cebu on June 13. For details, call Executive Decisions at 413-6436 to 37.

Teachers are invited join the **re-launching of the Teachers' Network program** on May 24, 2-4 p.m. at the Main Lobby of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra String Quartet will be performing. For inquiries, call 899-7691 loc. 2222-24.

X-manila

Kids can have their final blast this summer at the **Subic High Adventure Camp** in Subic Bay Freeport from May 27-31. Boys and girls from ages 12–16 with attitude (and altitude) can experience fun with nature. Learn river and sea kayaking, rappelling, forest trekking, basic mountaineering and jungle survival from real adventure racers. Enjoy team building activities with adrenalin charged cable play and even test their mettle in a mini adventure race. For inquiries and registration, call Chinky Lazo at 637-0787, or 0917-8105550.

Three 2-day **workshops on Intensive Journal**, a method of journal keeping, will be given at Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, Campo Sioco, Baguio City on May 26-31. For details, call (074)442-4602 or 442-4926 during office hours or email mksbag@mozcom.com.

Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field's Mequeni Café recently launched its themed buffet. It's Tex Mex Mix every Monday, Tuesdays feature Filipino Buffet Night, Wednesdays go Japanese, it's Fisherman's Treasure every Thursday, Fiesta Filipino on Fridays with cultural show, and Fiesta Latino every Saturday with classical Latino buffet and live entertainment. The Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field is located along Mimosa Drive, Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Field, Pampanga. For inquiries, call 845-1888 or (045) 599-8000.

On hand to give both local and foreign tourists a chance to view the St. Paul's Underground River is The Legend Hotel's exclusive year-round **Palawan Nature Experience (PAX) tour package**. The PAX Underground River Adventure, priced at P10,999net/person, covers roundtrip airfare to Palawan via Air Philippines, 3 days and 2 nights accommodation at The Legend Hotel Palawan, roundtrip airport transfers, all meals, and a half-day tour to Puerto Princesa's city attractions. Other PAX tour packages include the Narra Town Excursion, Honda Bay Island Hopping and a visit to Nagtabon Beach. For details, call The Legend Hotel Manila's sales office at 638-9256 and 58.

SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) will be the main topic at the **10th Annual Postgraduate Course of the American College of Chest Physicians** (Philippine Chapter) from June 5 to 7 at the MetroCentre Hotel in Tagbilaran, Bohol with Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit heading the panel of speakers. The program will also cover the latest on biochemical warfare, asthma, TB, COPD, pneumonias, mechanical ventilation, sepsis and weight management. For inquiries, call tel. 724-8536.

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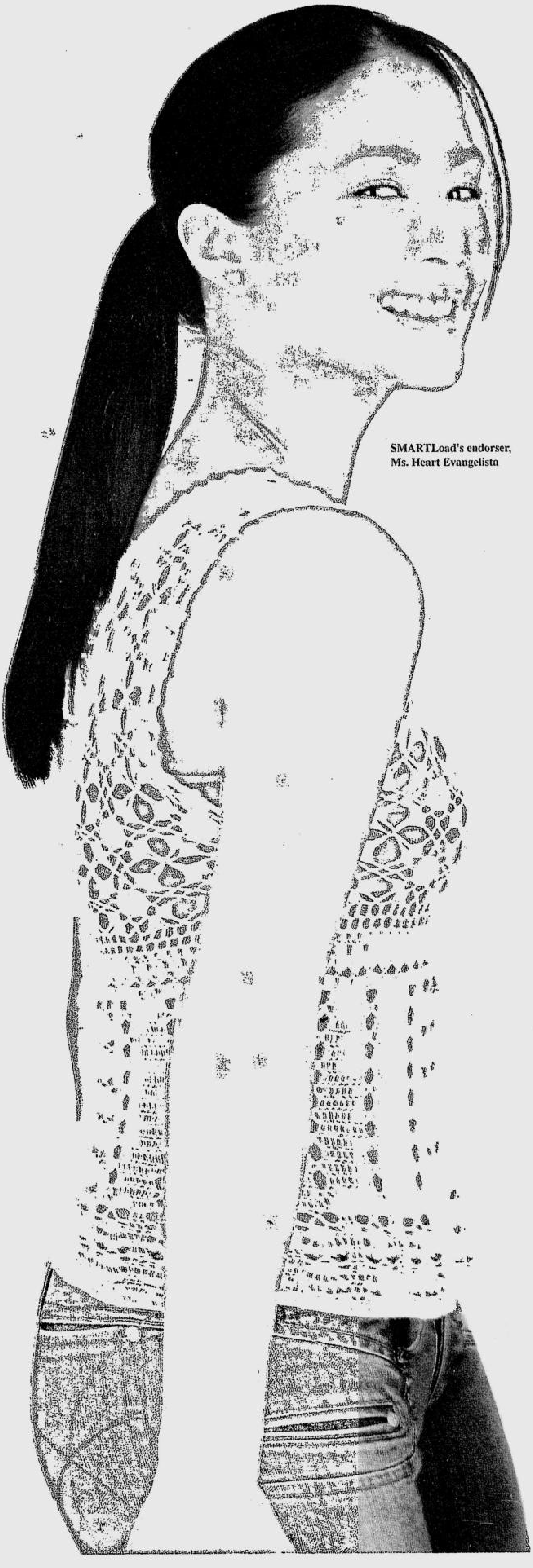

SMARTLoad's endorser, Ms. Heart Evangelista

Have you ever felt frustrated when you run out of credits? Have you ever tried to make an important text to your client and you've just run out of load? Have you ever just needed a couple of minutes of voice calls and couldn't afford to purchase the whole phone card? We've all been in a monetary jam once or twice before but now the Philippines' leading wireless service provider has revolutionized our budgetary needs and subsequently the telecommunications industry yet again. SMART Communications Inc. has just introduced its 'sachet-like' package that brings their celfone services to the people. The service is SMART Buddy Load, an over-the-air (OTA) electronic prepaid reloading service that caters to everyone, from users to retailers. It's a fully democratic service if you will.

The service is essentially a concept born from consumer goods makers that prices their goods in 'sachets'. or easier-on-the-pocket sizes. This OTA reloading service will make available three types of retail packages: "Economy", "Regular" and "Extra" loads. The economy load, designed for those celfone users with immediate needs and light pockets, will be priced at P30. This slight amount gives the users up to 30 text messages or up to 6 minutes worth of local voice calls. The amount of text messages and voice calls allows the person with the not much cash on hand to handle his communications needs for a couple of days.

"This is another innovation in Philippine telecommunications that is a world first. This is the first phone-to-phone OTA reloading service offering such affordable packages," said Napoleon Nazareno, SMART President and CEO.

SMART Buddy Load also considers the celfone users with larger text and voice requirements with their "Regular" and "Extra" Load packages. The Regular load, priced at P60, can send up to 60 text messages or make up to 13 minutes of local calls. The Extra load, priced at P115 can be used to send 115 text messages or up to 25 minutes worth of local voice calls. It is this innovation in packaging and sensitivity to the consumer that characterizes the SMART Buddy Load service. With a range of prices that helps the Filipino budget their celfone needs, it also allows the user to reload anytime with absolute convenience.

This service, in keeping with the feeling of a democratic wireless endeavor, is beneficial for retailers of phone cards as well. Retailers of SMART Buddy Load no longer need insurance, transportation and warehousing costs because it is fully electronic. There is also no need to type key words or card PINs, and there are never any incidences of over-scratching. This saves the retailer valuable time and minimizes security concerns because there are no cards needed for this service, instead a text message will be sent by the SMART system to the subscriber and the retailer informing them of the amount of text or airtime loaded and the load expiration.

The over-the-air (OTA) reloading service has been offered since the introduction of SMART Money in 2000 through an electronic cash card linked to a phone. This easy to access cash card allows SMART celfone users to reload their prepaid Buddy phones in amounts ranging from P250 to P1000 at any given time.

Each of the new load packages has a prescribed period: 3 days for Economy, 6 days for Regular and 12 days for Extra. This means that for an Economy load, for example, a subscriber can send text or make calls within a period of 3 days. SIM validity will depend on the type of OTA reload package selected. A load of P300-P1000 will maintain the standard SIM validity of 120 days.

It is this convenience and affordability that will appeal to the masses of celfone users in the Philippines. Anastacio R. Martirez, head of SMART's Personal Communications and Mobile Services Division hailed the importance of the service by saying that 'SMART Buddy Load is the answer to the dreams of many ordinary customers. It is an affordable and convenient means of loading one's prepaid phone. They sell for as low as P30 while offering convenience as they will be available at sari-sari stores.' Mr. Martirez believes that this accessibility and widespread distribution will make this service create believers all over the country. He went on to add, 'We believe it will be a household name in no time. In fact, aside from benefiting our more than 9.5 million prepaid subscribers, SMART Buddy Load will make it possible for people to build lucrative micro-businesses."

So those of you who feel like you're wireless provider hasn't considered all of your needs, try and think again because SMART Communications is staying smart for you. This groundbreaking service is available at all SMART Wireless Centers and in a growing number of sari-sari stores nationwide. In the meantime look for authorized SMART agents and merchant dealers who will be happy to make your celfone usage that whole much easier.

SMART Buddy

Load

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